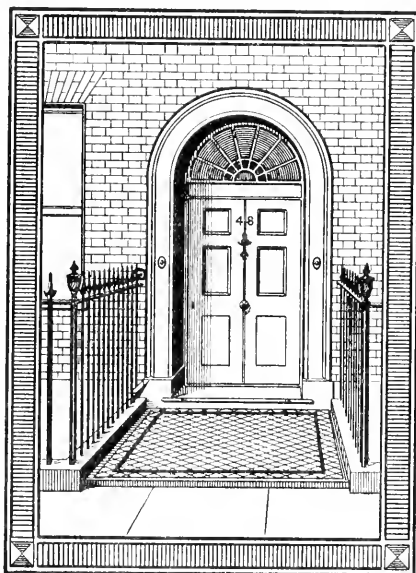


THE
HOUSEHOLD
NARRATIVE
OF
CURRENT EVENTS
1852

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THE DICKENS HOUSE

THE
HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF
CURRENT EVENTS,

(FOR THE YEAR 1852,)

BEING
A MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO HOUSEHOLD WORDS.

CONDUCTED BY
CHARLES DICKENS.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND SANITARY PROGRESS.

PARLIAMENT.—Its opening, the royal speech, 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Debate on the address, 27; opening of the new Parliament, royal speech, and debate on the address, 243; Aberdeen's (Lord) speech on the new administration, 276; Ali Morad's territories, 75; amendment of proceedings in the Court of Chancery, 244; assembling of Parliament by proclamation, bill to amend the statutory law, 53; Ava, the war with, 75, 76, 99; Birkenhead, loss of the, 76; business of the House before Christmas, 245; Caffre war, 28; Caffres, sale of gunpowder to the, 28; Cape of Good Hope, constitution granted to, 122; Chancery reform, 52; Clancarty (Lord) and the oath prescribed for Roman Catholics, 28; commercial policy, 256; Common Procedure Amendment Bill, 28; coffee mixed with chicory, 98, 123; corn duties, 52; County Courts Extension Bill, 29; criminal offenders, mutual surrender of, between France and England, 122, 123; Crystal Palace, 75; De Bode (Baron), petition from, 123; Derby's (Earl) reason for taking office, 51; doctrine, question of, 99; duration of the session, 75; elections, corrupt practices at, 123; Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill, 100; foreign refugees, 76; French compensation fund, 123; gunpowder, the sale of, to the Caffres, 28; Indian territories, 75; Jamaica, distressed state of, 192; Larges, attack upon, 29; lunatic asylum for criminal lunatics, 53; Mather (Mr.), case of, 28, 122, 123; Maynooth grant, 75, 99; Megera, troopship, 28, 29; Militia Bill, 123; Murray (Mr.) the case of, 99; national school grants, 123; Navy Pay Bill, 123; New South Wales petition, 123; New Zealand Bill, 129, 134; property tax, 99; railway amalgamation, 123; railway regulations, 245; resignation of ministers, 29; recognition of the French Empire, 267; River Plate, affairs of the, 53; Rosas (General), honours paid to, 98, 99; sanitary state of London, 98; Smith's (Sir H.), conduct at the Cape, the Duke of Wellington's approval of, 27; St. Alban's disfranchisement, 77; volunteer rifle corps, 53; Von Beck (Baroness), 123; Warner's (Captain) invention, 99; Wellington (the Duke), funeral of the, 244; Lord Derby's speech on the, 245; wills, bill to amend the law of, 53; prorogation, 147.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Opening of Parliament, debate on the address, 29; opening of the New Parliament, debate on the address, 246; Australia, desertion of seamen in, 106; augmentation of the armed and paid forces, 58; ballot, vote by, 78; ballast heavers of the port of London, 81; Bennett (Mr.), vicar of Frome, 81, 106, 125, 163; Bethlehem hospital, 247; Brazil, our relations with, 81; British American railway, 124; Fisherie of Christchurch (New Zealand) bill, 132; carriages, the duty on, 34; chaucery reform bill, 59; chaucery, relief of sailors in the, 31; charitable trusts bill, 61; Clarendon (Lord), charge against, as viceroy of Ireland, 35; colonial bishops bill, 101, 106; Constantinople, repairing the chapel of the embassy at, 12; convocation, 247; copyright amendment bill, 59; copyright treaty with France, 33; county courts extension bill, 81; county election polls bill, 127, 133; county rates expenditure bill, 35; Crystal Palace, 101;

dangerous animals bill, 57; deserters from foreign ships, 60; Disraeli's (Mr.) financial statement, 268; division on the, 272; dissolution of Parliament, intention regarding the, 56, 79; ecclesiastical personages and episcopal revenues, 101, 127; elections corrupt practices bill, 33, 81, 107, 131; extramural internments, 55; financial statement, 101; foreign affairs, alteration in the administration of, 29; foreign commerce, 51; free-trade, intention of the government with regard to, 55, 54; free-trade, intentions of the new government respecting, 248; Mr. Villiers in favour of, 268; general board of health bill, 134; grand jury's bill, to dispense with, 81; Harwich, bribery at, 78; hop duty, 59; Household Narrative, 57; Indian territory, government of the, 124, 134; Lefevre (Mr.) elected speaker of the House, 243; Mather's (Mr.) case, 31, 129, 148; Meer Roostun, late Amer of Scinde, the case of, 134; metropolitan burials bill, 133, 134; metropolitan sewers bill, 133; metropolitan water bill, 133; militia, Lord John Russell's, 34, 36; militia, Lord Derby's, 77, 83, 103, 105, 125; militia franchise, 81; ministerial explanations, 57, 79; Murray (Mr.), case of, 124; Maynooth grant, 106, 107, 125, 131; national board of education, 58; New South Wales, petition from, 133; new writs for elections, 55; New Zealand government bill, 106, 124, 128, 133; Oban and Glasgow railway, 55; O'Connor (Mr.), Fergus, disorderly conduct of, 128, 133; Paget (Mr.), seizure of his papers at Dresden, 248; Palmerston's (Lord), dismissal, 29; paper duty and taxes on knowledge, 105; parish constable's bill, 82; parish vestries bill, 132; parliamentary reform bill, 34; policy of the new administration, 57; poor-law board continuance bill, 107; postage labels, machine for perforating the sheets of, unfair treatment of the inventor, 55; preserved meats for the navy, 33; protection to refugees, 59; public business, 124; public houses (Scotland) bill, 32; recognition of the French Empire, 269; reform bill, the new, 33, 54; reform of the ecclesiastical courts, 248; relief of the landed interest, 60; representative system, 59; resignation of the ministers, 37; Roman Catholic processions, 132; resignation of Lord Derby's government, 267; Scotland, law reform, act for, 33; shipping trade, 58; stamp duty, 31; St. Alban's disfranchisement, 34, 54, 59; sugar duties, 54; synod of the Church of England in the colonies, 134; taxes on knowledge, 82; tenant right, 33; Turkey and Egypt, 59; universities of Scotland bill, 100; university lists, 34; ventilation of the House, 31, 55; votes to occupiers of tenements of 106 per year, 100; voting for members, extension of the people's rights, 32; water in the metropolis, 31; Wellington (the Duke), funeral of the, 245; expense of the, 248; the Queen's message relating to the, 247; Wingate and Smith (Messrs.) the case of, 122, 148; working classes, measures to benefit the condition of the, 128; prorogation, 148; members returned to serve in the new parliament, 149; members of the Aberdeen administration, 273.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.—Army estimates, 56; building of iron steamers, 58; Caffre war, 80; civil service estimates, 124; commissariat votes, 60; conveyance of specie on board ships of war,

58; exchequer bills, 60; medals for naval actions, 58; navy estimates, 58; naval reserve, 58; ordinance estimates, 60; patronage of the dockyard, 58.

IRELAND.—Consolidated charities act, 53; Cuffe-street savings bank, 56, disturbances in, 28; disturbed districts, the, 56; encumbered estates, 134; funds for educational purposes, 52; improvement of landed property, 248; incumbered estates commission act, 56; Irish valuation bill, 134; Maynooth grant, 75, 99, 106, 107, 125, 131; Maynooth, system of education at, 104; national education, 124; new reform bill, 33; outrages in, 28; prevention of crime in, 132, 134.

EDITORIAL NOTES.—Aberdeen ministry the, 266; Africa, the war on the coast of, 25; American fisheries dispute, 169; Anti-Corn-Law League, 26, 49; Achilli v. Newman, trial, 122; grant for a new trial, 242; Argentine confederation, 170; Australian convict question, 25; Australia, the gold diggings, 73, 122; Australian grievances, 122; Australia, security of wool from, 98; Bentinck, Lord H., in North Nottingham, 145; Beresford, Mr. and the non-electors, 146; a good and a safe man wanted at Derby, W. B., 146, 266; Birkenhead, loss of the, 74; book-selling question, the, 74, 91; budget, Mr. Disraeli opening the, 97; Cape, the war at the, 25, 98; clamancy abuses, 26; clamancy, abolition of the masters of, 74; cholera, preparations for the, 170; Christopher (Mr.) in Lincolnshire, 145; church, disputes in the, 75; Cobden (Mr.), on the hustings, 145; convocation, 247, 242; crystal palace, Lord Derby on opening the, on Sunday, 242; Cumming (Mrs.), the chancery proceedings against, 50; death of the Duke of Wellington, 193; Derby's (Lord) speech at a dinner given by the Lord Mayor, 97; Disraeli (Mr.) at his election dinner, 145; Derby administration, fall of the, 266; Disraeli's (Mr.) speech on the death of the Duke of Wellington, 241; Exeter, the bi-hop of, and the confessional, 247; Exeter's, the Marquis of, wish at Blandford, 146; forebodings on opening of the new year, 1; Franklin, Sir John, 74, 218; France and the northern powers, 98; French claims to the holy sepulchre, 26; French interference with Turkey, 170; French invasion, 98; French press, 25; free-traders, 147; general election, 121, 145; gold diggings in Australia, 73; Household Narrative, proceedings of the Court of Exchequer against the, 74; income-tax, 26; Indian empire, propose inquiry into the administration of government on the, 75; Ireland, the favourable condition of, 218; Irish discussions on religious equality, 218; Kelly, Sir Fitzroy, in Suffolk, 146; Kossuth's speech, 241; Louis Napoleon's method of governing, 49; Louis Napoleon and the empire, 170; Louis Napoleon elected emperor, 241; Manchester free-trade meeting, 26; Manners, Lord John, at Colchester, 145; Mather (Mr.), the case of, 121; murders in Ireland, 248; Maynooth grant and the no-popery cry, 98, 121; militia question, and resignation of Lord John Russell, 25; militia bill, 25, 75, 98; national defences, 25; new ministry, work in hand for the, 25; new year, forebodings of the, 1; New Zealand bill, 122; Pitcairn's Island, a visitor from, 219; popish processions, the proclamation against, 121; Queen of Spain, attempt to assassinate the, 26; rifle

practice for the people, 2; Rosas, the fall of, 26, 49; Russell, Lord John's, resignation, 25; Salomons, Mr. Alderman, and the Court of Exchequer, 74; sanitary reform, 25; Schwartzburg, Prince, death of, 74; Scottish universities, religious tests in the, 97; Sellon (Miss) and the Puseyites, 50; spring assizes, 50; Six-mile Bridge affair, 17; Smithfield removal, 170; St. Albans bribery, the, 51; universities, the, 97; Wagner, Madlle., and the rival operas, 73; Walpole's (Mr.) notion of a new franchise, 74; Wellington, death of the Duke of, 93.

Acts of Parliament—The New Metropolitan Burial, 163.

Administration of city charities, an investigation into the, 231.

Agricultural interest, a deputation to Lord J. Russell, with reference to, 35.

Agricultural Society, the royal, show of farming implements at, 162; the Worcester societies annual dinner, 229; Duffries and Kirkbright dinner, 229; Surrey meeting and dinner, 229; South Buckingham annual dinner, 230; meetings of the Waltham, Herefordshire, Chertsey, and Cranbrook Associations, 229; cattle show at Belford, 181; royal society of Ireland show, 181; meeting at Framingham, 205.

Amazon, destruction of the, by fire, 10.

Army distribution at home and abroad, 62.

Artists' benevolent fund dinner, 112.

Bartholomew fair, 204.

Bennett (Mr.), address to the Marchioness of Bath from the parishioners of Frome against, 3.

Bethlehem hospital, treatment of patients in, 258.

Bristol, rapid progress of the port of, 13.

British Association, 203.

British and Foreign Society meeting, 111.

Charing Cross hospital, annual meeting of the governors of, 162.

Christmas feast to the poor at Leicester-square soup kitchen, 12.

Cholera, progress of the, 203.

City dispensary, report of the, 13.

City railway terminus, Mr. C. Pearson's plan for, 258.

Commissioners of Customs, notice to masters of vessels in case of improper seizure, 204.

Convocation of the province of York, 37.

Convocation, assembly of the two houses of, 37, 250.

Copyright, convention between France and England, 12.

Cork, the exhibition at, 141.

Cotton, the annual growth in the United States, 230.

Cromer, purchased by Mr. Benjamin Lond Cabell, 181.

Crystal palace, purchase of the, 112.

Crystal palace at Sydenham, ceremony of placing the first pillar, 180.

Department of practical art, important memorandum issued by the, 112.

Domestic servants' association, 112.

EDUCATION—Education of the working classes in Wales, 25; King Edward's School at Birmingham, commemoration of the founding, 90; Lambeth ragged schools, annual meeting, 91; national school society, the, 140; Queen's college, first annual visitation, 90.

Emigration and colonisation, the progress of, 17, 93, 114, 142, 165, 184, 201, 233.

Encumbered estates sales, 141, 184, 203.

Electric telegraph across the Irish Channel, 140.

Electric telegraph in the Bank of England, 140.

Electric telegraph connected to the fire engine stations at Boston, 13.

Encumbered Estates, the, 13.

Exhibition, the Great, cost of removal of, &c., 66.

Female Penitentiary (the Liverpool), annual meeting, 66.

Flax, Sir J. Graham on the cultivation of, 12.

Game laws, Sir J. Graham's step towards relaxing the severity of the, 105.

Goldsmiths' Company's entertainment to her Majesty's ministers, 81.

Gorham case, declaration in support of the decision in the, 2.

Great Exhibition at Cork, opening of the, 141.

Greenwich Observatory, arrangements to connect it by wires to the electric telegraph, 12.

Hospital for diseases of the chest, anniversary festival, 66.

Hospital at Brompton for consumption and diseases of the chest, 111.

International postage association, 181.

Iron-stone discovered in Northamptonshire, 12, 90.

Legal education report, 42.

Liberal members of the House of Commons, assembly at Lord J. Russell's, 61.

Literary fund, the royal, 66, 112.

Library and reading-room for the working classes, meeting of the parishioners of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields to establish a, 140.

Liverpool, opening of the free library at, 230.

London City Mission meeting, 111.

Manchester free library, opening of the, 204, 229.

Married soldiers' society to promote the erection of improved dwellings for, 162.

Maylebone, a meeting in, to establish a free library, 231.

Mccli's (Mr.) annual gathering at Tiptree Hall, 162.

MARTINS—Agricultural, 222; Anti-Corn-Law League, 62; Church Pastoral Aid Society, 112; confessional at Plymouth, 251; letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, 251; diocesan synods, 4; free trade, at Manchester, 251; Friends of Italy, 251; Leeds Reformers, 3; Maynooth, to discontinue the grant to, 4; metropolitan interment, 13; at Manchester, on the subject of labour, 61; militia, against the, 107; property tax, against the renewal of, 2; Sheffield, the constituency of, 3; solicitors at Derby, 230; Sons of the Clergy, 112; Taxes on knowledge, 276; Westminster Reform Society, 3.

Members returned to serve in the new Parliament, 149.

Merchant Seamen's Fund, new regulations, 12.

Metropolitan Burial Act, the, 163.

Metropolitan Board of Sewers, first meeting, 181, 203.

Metropolitan Sanitary Association, 90.

Museum of Practical and Ornamental Art, 204.

National Galleries, purchase of land by the Royal Commissioners of the Great Exhibition for the, 230.

New Ministry, names of the, 38.

Obituary—Abercromby, Lord, 164; Ady, Joseph, 208; Baird, Sir David, 16; Baker, Admiral, 16; Berry, Miss, 277; Blackwood, Robert, Esq., 42; Castanos, Gen., Duke of Baylen, 22; Chipman, Chief Justice of New Brunswick, 16; Cockburn, Major-General Sir James, 97; Colby, Major-General, 232; Cornwallis, Earl of, 113; Denmark, the Dowager Queen of, 91; D'Orsay, Count, 182; Downman, Sir Thomas, Lieutenant-General, 182; Dinorben, Lord, 232; Excellmans, Marshal, 164; Finden, Mr. William, 231; Forbes, Sir Charles, 67; Gay, Madam, 67; Gerard, Marshal, 92; Graydon, Colonel R. E., 42; Prince Gustavus, Duke of Upland, 232; Hamilton, his Grace, the Duke of, 182; Jackson, Vice-Admiral, 141; Kent, Dr., 67; Neild, J. J., 208; Kensington, Lord, 182; Landseer, John, Esq., 67; Loring, Sir Wentworth, 182; Lovelace, the Countess of, 277; Mackay, Alexander, 113; Mackworth, Sir Digby, Bart., 232; McKinley, 67; Monsdorff, Ponely, the Count, 164; Marmont, Marshal, 67; Montague, Sir W. A., Vice-Admiral, 67; Moore, Thomas, 67; Newbigging, Sir W., 261; Pammeur, Lord, 91; Præd, Vice-Admiral, 232; Paterson, Mrs., one of Burns' heroines, 233; Parker, Sir James, Vice-Chancellor, 182; Robinson, General Sir P., 16; Saxe-Weimar, the Duchess of, 91; Schwartzburg, Prince, 91; Shelley

Sir John, 91; Somers, Earl, 232; St. Andrew's, the Bishop of, 232; Talbot, the Right Hon. J. C., 141; Townsend, Dr., Bishop of Meath, 232; Thomson, Thomas, Esq., of Edinburgh, 232; Watson, the Hon. R., 113; Webster, Daniel, 261; Wellington, the Duke of, 296; Wheatley, Major-General Sir H., 67; Wilson, Thomas Esq., 232; Wurtemberg, Prince Paul, 92.

O'Brien, William Smith, and his companions, petition to the Lord-Lieutenant, entreating the royal clemency in behalf of, 107.

PAPAL—Opening of Roman Catholic schools at Hackney, 3; Sellon, Miss, charged with Popish practices, 67; proclamation against Roman Catholic processions, 155.

Pauperism, the decrease of, 205.

PERSONAL—Queen, her Majesty, the, and Prince Albert, distribution to the poor on her birthday, 165; gift of apartments in Hampton Court Palace to the widows of the officers Penryn and Curoton, 42; chapter of the order of the Thistle, Lord Salton invested, 67; investiture of the order of the Bath, 91; Rajah of Coorg and his daughter presented to the, 113; the marine trip of, 163; anniversary of the coronation, 164; christening of the daughter of the Rajah of Coorg, 164; visit to the King of the Belgians, 182; excursions in the Highlands, 205; visit to the tubular bridge over the Menai Straits, 231; the Government School of Mines, 16.

Belcher's, Sir Edward, arctic expedition, 91 Beresford's, W., speech at Castle Hedingham, 219.

Canning, Sir Stratford, raised to the peerage, 113.

Cathart, Major-General, appointed Governor of the Cape, 16.

Cholmeley's, Sir M., doubts of the Protectionist Premier, 135.

Costello, Miss L. S., grant of 75*l.* a-year to, 231.

Cullen, Dr., appointed by the Pope Archbishop of Dublin, 141.

Disraeli's, Mr., address to the electors of Buckingham, 135; speech on the death of the Duke of Wellington, parallel passages from a panegyric by M. Thiers on Marshal De St. Cyr, 251.

Fitzelarence, Lord Frederick, appointed commander-in-chief at Benbully, 113.

Fordey's, Colonel, legacy to the soldiers under his command, 113.

Franklin, Sir John, vessels the Erebus and Terror, supposed discovery of, 91.

Halford's, Mrs., munificent charity legacies, 276.

Hardinge, Viscount, appointed to the command of the army, 203, 231.

Humboldt's, Baron von, eighty-third birthday, 205.

Jenny Lind's marriage to M. Otto Goldschmidt, at Boston, 42.

Kossuth's arrival in England from the United States, 164.

Londonderry's, the Marquis, letter to Louis Napoleon regarding Abd el-Kader, 182.

Meagher's, the Irish convict, e-cape from Van Diemen's Land, 91.

Neild, Mr., the will of, leaving her Majesty the Queen, 250,000*l.*, 232, 261.

Newman, Dr., numerous subscription for his defence, 205.

O'Connor, Mr. Feargus, removed to Dr. Took's establishment at Chiswick, 141.

Pugin, Mrs., grant of 100*l.* a year to, 231.

Rosas, General, in England, 113.

Shrewsbury's (Earl of), property and will, 276.

Smith, General Sir Harry, recalled from the Cape, 42.

Smythe, the Hon. G., and Col. Romilly, duel between, 113.

Somerset, Lord Fitzroy, appointed Master-General of the Ordnance, 231.

Southey, Mrs. C., grant of 200*l.* a year to, 231.

Wellington, the Duke of, and the farmer at Windsor, 16; the Waterloo banquet, 191; death of his Grace, and sketch of his life, 206; preparations for the

funeral, 232; removal from Walmer, 259; lying in state, 259; the funeral, 259.
Wilson's, Professor, resignation of the university of Edinburgh, 91.
Physicians, a charter to the royal college of, 181.
Poland, annual meeting of the friends of, 111.
Political dinner, conservative and whig, 197.
Railway, amalgamation schemes for, 238.
Reclamation of land covered by the sea, 161.

RETURNS, REPORTS, &c.

Army distribution at home and abroad, 62.
Births, deaths, and marriages, 41, 186, 257.
British vessels engaged in foreign trade, 141.
Census returns, 161.
Census returns of Ireland, 161.
Coffee, statistics respecting, 13.
County courts, business transacted in the, 6.
Cotton, the growth of, in the United States, 230.
Court of Chancery, returns respecting the, 108.
Edinburgh, the rental of the city of, 141.
Electors, the number of, registered in Great Britain in the years 1850-51, 61.
Encumbered estates, report of the commissioner, 141, 181, 203.
Great Exhibition surplus, 275.
Haciney carriages, the number of licenses of, 140.
Health of London, 162.
Import and export trade of the United Kingdoms, 67.
Public health, 180.
Public income and expenditure for the last three years, 219.
Railway accidents, 111.
Railway returns, 14.
Revenue returns, 2.
Savings banks, 66.
Shipwrecks, 111.
Sugar, the consumption of, 91.

Rifle corps in Surrey, 57.
Rifle corps, the government notification to, 58.
Sailors' Home, and Destitute Sailors' Asylum, yearly meeting, 42.
Sailors' widows, the Cambridge Asylum for, 111.
Sellon (Miss), charged with popish practices, 67.
Servants' Royal Provident Benevolent Society, 112.
Sewerage and drainage of the metropolis, 42.
Strike of engineers, machinists, &c., 14, 41.
Submarine telegraph, direct communication between London and Paris, 259.
Tenant-right movement in Ireland, 196.
Theatrical Fund (the General) anniversary festival, 90.
The women of England to the women of the United States on the subject of Slavery, 275.
Trade in the provinces, 230.
Training Institution for masters and mistresses of the schools of the National Society, laying the first stone by Prince Albert, 112.
University of London, meeting of the ruling body, 112.
University of London, meeting of the undergraduates, 112.
University of Oxford, report of the royal commissioners, 113.

LAW AND CRIME.

Achilli v. Newman, 137, 251.
Adultery, Rev. Stephen Mathews, of Hanging Heaton, deprived of his living for, 65.
Agrarian conspirators at Monaghan, trial of, 5.
Archers Court, decision in the case of the Rev. Mr. Gladstone v. Bishop of London, 137.
Assault on a police constable by Mr. Feargus O'Connor, 38; Eliza Coffield,

trial of three men for, 108; on Catherine Tierney by Mrs. Acock, 153; on Storey, a detective policeman, by some stock-broker's clerks, 153; William Liss, charged with assaulting his father, 176; on a policeman, by a notorious ruffian, James Cannan, a chimney sweep, 221; on a policeman, by a private in the 1st Life Guards, 224; on two railway officials, by Sir James Rivers, bart., 225; on a poor woman by a Roman Catholic Priest, 274.

Attempt to poison his wife, trial of William Baldry for, 1; to murder Mr. Barber at Brompton, Edward Stagales charged with, 39; to murder his wife, trial of Edwin Harris for, 62; to murder his wife by poison, Matthew Colgan charged with, 63; Richard Ambler, surgeon, tried for inveigling into his house a young woman with intent, &c., 108; attempted murder and suicide by Martin White, a Chelsea pensioner, 137; attempted suicide, 155; Eliza Bentley, charged with attempting suicide, 175; Francis Thorpe, charged with attempting suicide, 175; to murder a young woman at Yarmouth, by Samuel Howth, 224.

Aylesbury assizes, point of difference between the judge and the high sheriff, 62.

Bankruptcy and Insolvency Courts—Case of John Mills, application under the Protection Act, 7; the Broomsgrove bank affairs, 40; judgment in the case of D. E. Columbine, 135; case of Alexander Wallace, application for a discharge, 158; Jonathan Shuter, application for his certificate, 252; important question under the Protection Act, 253.

Begging women, 177; trial of, for demanding money of Mr. Solly, 199.

Betting houses, effects of frequenting, 252.
Bignamy, cases of, 226, 254.

Bills of acceptance, caution to tradesmen, 108.

Breach of Promise of Marriage—Emma Oldaker and George Davis, 154; Miss Holf and Mr. Savage, 154; Fanny Bird and George Bantall, 159.

Burglaries in St. Andrew's-road, Newington-cumsey, 7; at Mr. Farley's, at Great Kaveley, sentence of transportation against the prisoners, 63; robbing a farm at Castletreasure, 199; burglary at Mrs. Lamb's, at Twickenham, 225; at Messrs. Whittaker's, 252.

Burning the Bible, a Franciscan monk charged with, 63.

Cathedral trusts and their fulfilment, case of the Rev. Mr. Whiston decided by the Bishop of Rochester, 225.

Chancery, the Court of, returns respecting the, 108; new rules and orders in the Court of, 197; prisoner released after thirteen years' confinement, 172; suit commenced above one hundred years ago, 175.

Charitable institutions and idle vagrants, 199.

Coins, discovery of a gang of, 222.

Compensation for damages to Mr. Blacklock, from the Midland Railway Company, 153; compensation from the Brighton and South Coast Railway to Mr. Palmer, 40.

County Courts, business transacted in the, 6.
Cromorne Garieus, the proprietor of, charged with cruelty to animals by allowing them to be suspended from a balloon, 198.

Cumming (Mrs.) and the lunacy commission, 7, 65.

Derby election, ease of bribery at the, 159.
Destitution, a dreadful case of, 252.

Disturbed state of the county of Armagh, 5.
Domestic tragedy at Loughrea, murder of two children by the mother, 5.

Duel between two French gentlemen near Windsor, 225, 254.

Emigrants, complaints of, against shipping agents, 173; cases of importation to, 156, 201, 225.

Endangering the lives of railway passengers, 109.
Expense of pleading in law courts, a case of the, 136.

False imprisonment, trial for damages for, 171.

Forgery, William Henry committed for circulating false bills of exchange, 173; forging a certificate of marriage, trial of Wilton Butler, a sapper and miner, for, 172.

Frauds between Mr. Campbell Foster and Mr. Digby, 159.

Frankfort (Lord), charged with sending improper letters, 173; sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, 273.

Fraudulent, trial of William Bennett and others, alias the Hon. William O'Brien Fitzgerald, for obtaining money under false pretences, 152; cheating at cards, trial of Charles Staden and John James for, 157; fraudulently obtaining a portrait of the Earl of Desart, trial of C. Collier for, 157; trial of Richard Sill for obtaining money from Henry Broome by false pretences, 173, 201; trial of Richard Burnell for unlawfully obtaining a sovereign and a half from a poor woman with intent to defraud her, 223; obtaining money by means of fraudulent cheques, 220.

Glen Tilt case, judgment of the House of Lords against the Duke of Atholl, 137.

Gladstone v. the Bishop of London, 137.

Highway robbery, trial of John Messham for, at Lewes, 158.

Hill, Sarah Anne, commutation of her sentence of death to transportation, 7.

Illegitimate child, refusing to support the, 5.

Ill-using two children, trial of Elizabeth Johnston for, 155.

Imposture and credulity, remarkable case of, at Shottisham, 200.

Incendiary fires, 155.

Inefficiency of the poor-law, 86.

Inmate depravity, Eliza and the blind negro, 136.

Inquest on Mr. Sand, drowned by the sinking of the Duchess of Kent, 175.

Irish Orangemen, arrest of twenty-four for attempting to parade the streets, 173.

Joint-stock companies, a point of great importance to shareholders, 39.

Libel.—Action against Mr. Birch, proprietor of the World newspaper, 136; Dr. Achilli against Dr. John Newman, 137; a new trial granted, 234; Sir Charles Napier v. Mr. J. Murray, 254.

Lodging houses, summonses for not observing the regulation of the act, 222.

Lunacy.—Commission to inquire into the state of Mr. John Price, 64; against Mrs. Cumming, 7, 65; judgment on Lord Dinorben, 86; action, Henry Baker for unlawfully keeping lunatics in his private house, 137; insufficient care of, 158.

Manslaughter—of a child, trial of Charlotte Larkin for, 64; trial of a surgeon for the manslaughter of Ann Noakes, 172; of his brother, trial of a boy for the, 254.

Meat unfit for human food, charge against a salesman for exposing, 59.

Medical fees, action for, 7.

Money won at play, action for, 254.

Morton (Mr.), of the Daily News, killed by Mr. Bower, of the Morning Advertiser, at Paris, 220.

MURDERS.—Of Mrs. Barnes, at Belher, 5; sentence of the prisoner, 65; of George Bush, at Bath, by a pedlar, 158; James Cleary, at Askeaton, county Limerick, 39; of John Cunan, in Leitrim, 5; of James Deegan, 31st Regiment, near Fermoy, Ireland, 221; of Giovanni Kalabergo, by a nephew, at Banbury, 6, 62; of William Manifold, Esq., in King's county, 224; Mr. Mapletorpe, at Hull, 109; William Roberts, in a night affray with poachers, 63; Mr. O'Callaghan Ryan, at Waterford, 199; of Mr. Alexander Robinson, by James Barker, near Sheffield, 198; of William Shine, at Adair, county Limerick, 221; Mr. Thomas Stackpoole, by his uncle, in Clare, 200; Elizabeth Thomas, by her son, at Prenton, 171; Sarah Watts, near Ulmore, trial of the men for, 83; of Fanny Walker, by Stephen Walker, suicide of the murderer, 109; of Mrs. Wheeler, by

her son, 108; of an aged couple near Stafford, 226; of a boy, by a lad of about twelve years of age, at Outwell Fen, 86; of a child, at Boyne Hill, 64; child murder, at Barnstable, 226; of a child, by a servant girl, after which she committed suicide, at Mile-end, 221; of two children, by the mother, at Guildford, 105; of two children, by their mother, at Loughrea, 6; an illegitimate child, by Alfred Waddington, 174; of their infant, trial of Thomas Crosby and Elizabeth Lewis, 85; of her husband, and trial of Sarah Ann French for, 64; of a mother, by a son, at Lambeth, 85; of an old man and woman, at Swords, near Dublin, 223; of an old woman, by a policeman, during a riot, 174; of a woman and child, near Aberdeen, 220; of a wife and daughter, suicide of Daws, the murderer, 86; of his wife, trial of Elijah Room, for the, 155; of a wife, by a drunken husband, at Bristol, 224; double murder and suicide, at Putney, 85; judgment in the case of Hannah Moore for child murder, 137; David Davis charged with murder for firing upon a mob, 174; of Mrs. Kirwan, by her husband, 273; of his wife, by Henry Horler, 274.

Mutiny on board the New York packet-ship, Queen of the West, 64.

Mutiny among the convicts at Woolwich, 4. Negligently driving an engine, and trial of the driver for, 225.

Newcastle-street, Strand, shocking condition of that locality, 63.

Nuisance, action against the North Staffordshire Railway Company for, 39. Overcrowding river steam-boats, 174.

Perjury, trial of Mrs. Dawson for, 4.

Piracy and murder on board an American vessel, 158.

Popish practices in the diocese of the Bishop of Exeter, 201.

Preserved meats for the navy, examination of, 6.

Probate of a will question, 172.

Railway regulations with regard to cabs overturned by the magistrates of the Southwark police court, 223, 253.

Railway companies' liability for luggage, 6. Ramsay (Mr.), late judge of the county courts' proceedings, 6, 38.

Resisting distrains of rents in Ireland, 199.

ROBBERY.—A. Campbell, a Scotchman, for robbing a tailor of five shillings, 226; trial of four men for robbing Mr. Colman, of Huddersfield, 159; a frequenter of betting-houses charged by his father with robbing him, 177; garotte robberies at Leeds, 220; in the Strand, 253; a gentleman robbed in the street, 85.

Romance in real life, 174.

Riots during the elections.—at Belfast, Cork, Limerick, 154; Wigan, 175; at Six-mile Birkdale, five men killed, 174, 177; at Stockport, 153, 172.

Salomons (Alderman), judgment in the action for penalties against, 86.

Sanitary regulations as to the dwellings of the poor, a case showing the necessity for, 85.

Shooting Michael Collins, Felix McGee tried for, 109.

Skittle sharpening, a case of, 175.

STEALING.—a will, 233; a father charging his son with, 7; Edward Little convicted of embezzling the money of his employer, 137; a singular charge of stealing made by George Frederic Carden against Benjamin Bayley, 176; trial of Thomas Scott, butler to Matthew Foster, Esq., 200; stealing jewellery worth 5000*l.*, 273.

SUICIDE.—of George Anderson, by throwing himself out of a window, 252; of a lunatic named Ainsworth, near the Farnborough station, 86; of Mr. J. Bradfield, by taking prussic acid at the St. Alban's Hotel, 222; of Daws, after murdering his wife and daughter, 86; of Mr. Edwards, at Liverpool, by prussic acid, 4; Mr. Flanagan, by keeping his head in a pul of water, 5; of a servant girl, after murdering a child at Mile-end, 221; of Mr. Stone, by taking laudanum,

40; James Taylor, Esq., banker of Birmingham, by cutting his throat, 221; of Watts, on the Great Western Railway, 172; of Stephen Walker, after murdering Fanny Walker, 109. Wagner's (Middle) Johanna, Mr. Lumley's injunction against, 87, 108.

Whiston's (Mr.) appeal against the judgment of the Bishop of Rochester, 85, 225, 261.

Writing threatening letters to the Earl of Derby, 103.

Will cause at Glasgow, Gilmour, v. Gilmour, 220.

ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Corn Exchange, Liverpool, fall of a flooring during an election, 130.

Boiler explosion in Old Gravel Lane, 178.

Catch accident at Long Bridge, 202.

COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS.—at Aberdeen, in Glamorganshire, sixty-four lives lost, 110, 133; Bunker's Hill Colliery, Elston, five killed and seventeen wounded, 139; Downbrow-pit, near Preston, 111, 133; Norbury Hall, two killed, several wounded, 8; Pemberton, ten persons killed, 90; Warren Vale, fifty-two persons killed, 8.

Drowning.—death of Mr. Cumming and his son at Matlock, 10; death of six fishermen in Scarborough Roads, 40; boat's crew of twelve or fourteen lost off Whitby during a gale, 40; in a coal-pit near Pembar, Carmarthen, twenty-eight men drowned, 111; three young men drowned in the Tay at Dundee, 160; dangers of the Serpentine, death of a young man from being fixed in the mud, 160; three persons drowned in the Thames by a collision with the Dahlia steamboat, 160; death of Lieut. W. S. Reeves and a waterman off Portsmouth, 203.

Earthquake felt in various parts of the country, 256.

Eton, gallant action by a young gentleman of, 159.

Explosion of a patent spirit lamp, death of a gentleman from the, 8.

Explosion of a boiler at Gold's Hill, four persons killed, 8.

Fall.—from a horse, death of Mr. Ansley, 16; from a horse, death of Mr. Sutton, R.N., 110; of a flooring during an election at the Corn Exchange, Liverpool, 139; of a plank from a scaffolding, death of Mr. Gibson, of Edinburgh, 229.

Fires.—destruction of a large cotton mill at Manchester, 9; at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, 49; at Smith's, baker, at Whaplode, remarkable instance of courage, 9; a vessel destroyed in Yarmouth Roads, 9; in Globe-lane, Woolwich, 9; Mr. Burch's, Berwick-street, Soho, 9; seven children burnt to death at Kenton, near Dumbarton, 90; calamitous fire at the village of Aldreth, 110; a man burnt to death on a brick-kiln at Walworth, 110; destruction of the schooner "Titania" in Cowes harbour, 110; at Messrs. Clowes, printers, in Duke-street, 139; fire at Tottenham Mills, 179; destruction of the Ship "Helen" off Liverpool, 228; at Mr. Petley's at Ash, near Sandwich, 229; destruction of the fire annihilator works at Battersea, 256.

Franklin's (Sir John), supposed discovery on the icebergs of two vessels belonging to his expedition, 140.

Heat of the weather, death from the, 161; death of Mr. Dewdney at a cricket match in Copenhagen Fields, 161.

Holmfied, bursting of a reservoir at, dreadful calamity, 40, 65.

Hydrophobia, death of a little girl from, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 228.

Incurious use of naphtha, 9.

Inundations in consequence of the rains, 256, 274.

Machinery of a corn-mill, death of Mr. Dawson, of Ravensdale, by the, 90; death by, at Salford, 228.

Oxford baths and washhouses, fatal accident on opening the, 139.

Patagonia, death of the British missionaries from starvation in, 109.

Poor woman killed by an ox, 66.

Machinery, dreadful death by, 66.

Rains, damage caused by the, 41.

Railway Accidents.—Aylesbury branch of North Western, 139; Birmingham and Oxford, 227; Bristol and Exeter, near Taunton, 201, 275; Gloucester and Dean Forest, 275; Great Northern, near Newark, 227; Great Western at Chippenham, near Reading, 255; London and Birmingham, near Leighton, 202; London and Brighton, 255; at the Brighton terminus, 203; Lancashire and Yorkshire at Bolton, 179; Leeds Northern, at a junction of the Clarence, 161; Lenton Junction, 201; London and North Western at Camden Town, 228; North Western at Ecksell, 117; Manchester and Sheffield, 90, 139; Midland, 178; at Monkton, near Ayr, 202; at King's Norton station, 255; at Portobello, near Edinburgh, 227; at Leeds, 274; Scottish Central, 213; Shrewsbury and Chester, 161; Shropshire Union, 139; South Eastern, 227; South Western, near Oakley Park, 275; Western Valley, 179; York and Newcastle, 8, 111; accident near Sheffield, 202; at Barnly, 160; death of Mr. Newsom from a slip at Huddersfield, 65; three men run over on the North Western Line, 65; death of the station-master at Astley, 227; death of Mr. Thompson at Minera, near Wrexham, 139; Mr. Hammet and his niece killed at Seaford Station, 255; accident from leaving a train before it had stopped, 161; death of Mr. Daniel from putting his head out of a carriage, 177; an aged woman run over at Baschurch, 202; fall of earth on the Manchester and Sheffield line, three men killed, 255; Mr. Samuel Laing's remarks upon railway accidents, 178; returns relating to railway accidents for the half-year, 111.

Shipwrecks.—loss of the Birkenhead troop ship, 87; dreadful calamity, court martial on the survivors, 110; loss of the Porto steamer, 89; return of shipwrecks during last year, 111; loss of the Burpore emigrant ship, 203; loss of the Trust of Scarborough emigrant ship, 179; loss of the American ship Mobile off the Blackwater Bank, 228; loss of the Enchantress of Yarmouth, 229; wreck of the Victoria steam-ship from Hull to St. Petersburg, 257.

St. Albans (the Duchess of), accident to, in the Regent's Park, 159.

Starvation, death of a schoolmaster from, 140.

Steamboat collision on the Lake Erie, near Buffalo, 201.

Steamboat collision between the Ravensbourne and the Duchess of Kent, 159.

Suffocation by carbonic acid, death of three persons from, 275.

Thunder Storms.—at Ipswich, a young woman killed by the lightning, 139; at Altwick, two men killed, 161; at Manchester, four persons killed, 179; at Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford, great damage done, 202; in Wales, death of an old man by lightning, 203; death of four persons by lightning at Sutton Valence, 228; death of a youth at Handley, 228.

Tiger hunting in India, Captain Colby killed by a tiger, 139.

Wellington, the Duke, persons killed in the crowd during the lying in state of the, 227.

-FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Australia.—discovery of gold at Port Phillip, 17; cases of individual success at the gold diggings, 17, 165; news from the diggings, 43, 92, 114, 165, 201, 233; numerous robberies at the, 183; state of the military service, 183; the anti-transportation agitation in Victoria, 210; new discoveries, 277.

Austria.—abolition of open courts and trial by jury, 21; the constitution of 1849 annulled, 21; execution of Patachi, the Hungarian, charged with being an emissary of Kossuth, 45; loss of a

steamer attending on the emperor in his voyage from Venice to Trieste, 69; meeting of the emperors of Austria and Russia, 116; the emperor's tour through Hungary, 142, 166; return of the emperor from Hungary, 184; sentences of the Hungarian court-martial, 188; horrible story of banditti, 212; fruits of the emperor's journey through Hungary, commutation of punishments, 212; treatment of the Austrian authorities to an Englishman at Verona, 212; funeral honours paid to the memory of the Duke of Wellington, 236; barbarities of the courts-martial, 236; extensive damage from inundations, 236.

Belgium—augmentation of the army, 45; convention with the British government for amalgamating the railways of the two countries, 166.

Buenos Ayres—defeat and flight of Rosas, 70; General Urquiza, director of the state, 190.

British America—great fire at Montreal, 142, 164; a new colony established in the Bay of Honduras, 184; meeting of the Canadian Parliament, speech of the governor-general, 209; memorials to the Queen respecting the fishery question, 209; address to the Queen from the Provincial Assembly, asking power to distribute the clergy's reserved lands, 233; modification of the usury laws, 233; petitions to the Queen, 266.

California—fresh discoveries of gold, 23; outrages by the Indians, 23; amount of gold exported in 1851, 117; immense increase of the population, 214; shipment of gold, 262; the city of Sacramento destroyed by fire, 279.

Cape of Good Hope—the Caffre war, 16; General Somerset's attack on the Waterkloof, death of Colonel Fordyce, Lieut. Carey, and Lieut. Gordon, 17; new colonial constitution, the, 17; successful expedition across the Kei, 68; meeting of the rebel chiefs, 68; attempts of the chiefs to sue for peace, 93; Sir H. Smith's attack on the Waterkloof, severe loss of life, 114; cruelty of the Caffres to their prisoners, 114; arrival of General Cathcart, departure of Sir Harry Smith, 142; ammunition and stores captured by the enemy, 183; General Cathcart's proclamation, 183; his attack on the Waterkloof, 209; slaughter of the enemy by the artillery and infantry under the command of Captain Buller, 208; General Cathcart's warning to the colonists in case of their not affording him sufficient assistance, 209; report that gold has been found in the Waterkloof, 233; the Waterkloof cleared of the enemy by the troops under General Cathcart, 261; discontent with conduct of the home government in regard to the constitution, 277.

China—number of emigrants from, to California, 113; progress of the rebellion, 214.

France—result of the election of Louis Napoleon as president of the republic, 18; grand religious ceremony of inaugurating the prince as president for ten years, 18; the municipal council of the Seine dissolved, 18; the president's state visit to the opera, 19; the new constitution, 19; decrees of prohibition against various persons, 19; transportation to Cayenne, 20; confiscation of the Orleans property, 20; titles of nobility restored, 20; persecution against the old nobility, case of the Marquis d'Osmond, 20; the reign of terror in the provinces, 20; the new ministry, 20; new law for the press, 41; note from the emperor of Russia, 44; new electoral law, 44; Duchess of Orleans' note to the president, 44; reduction of the Five per Cents., 68; session in Senate and legislative body, 93; correspondence between Austria, Russia, and Prussia relative to the imperial projects of the French president, 92; distribution of eagles to the army, the president's speech, 115; refusal of the astronomer Arago to take the oath of allegiance, 116; General Changar-

nier's refusal to take the oath, 116; attack of the president on the English press, 112; strange scene in the corps législatif, 142; close of the Legislative Assembly, 165; opening of the Strasburg Railway, 166; reception of the president at Strasburg, 166; reconstruction of the ministry, 186; grand fête on the 15th of August, 186; refusal of M. Odillon Barrot to sit in the Council General, 187; destruction of the Duke d'Enghien's monument, 187; trial of a murderer of three persons, 187; president's tour through the southern departments, 211; case of depravity in high life, 212; the "Gaspique plot," 212; discovery of an infernal machine, 231; the president's reception at Marseilles, Toulon, La Teste, Scves, Bordeaux, his entry into Paris, 235; visit to the Theatre Français, 236; reduction of the duties on salt, pork, and bacon, 236; release of Abd-el-Kader, 236; attempted escape of convicts from Guyana, 246; the empire established, 261; proclamation of the, 277.

Germany—great distress through dearth of provisions, 69; opening of the chambers in Wurtemberg, Nassau, and Oldenburg, 68; cruel treatment of Austrian and Hungarian subjects who had emigrated to Moldavia and Wallachia, by request of the Austrian authorities, 189; the tariff question, 237.

Guinea Coast—attack on the king of Lagos by our slave squadron, 21; destruction of Lagos, 45.

Greece—discovery of a secret republican society in, 69.

India—religions feud between Mahometans and Parsees, 16; the Nizam dead, 16; capture of the Dolphin by pirates, 16; disturbances on the north-west frontier, 43; murder of Messrs. Carne and Tapp, 43; piracy and murder on the Indian Ocean, 68; great earthquake in Gozerat, 92; five hundred murderers discovered in the Panjab, 142; resignation of Sir Colin Campbell from the command of the north-west frontier, 208. The War in Burmah—expedition to Burmah, 16; commencement of the war, 68; Rangoon and Martaban carried by storm, 142; capture of Bassin, 164; attempt of the Burmese to retake Martaban, 182; demand for 12,000 more troops by General Godwin, 208; preparations for an advance upon Prome, 232.

Ionian Islands—dissolution of parliament and the Lord High Commissioner's proclamation, 17; mutiny in the 30th and 41st regiments, sentence of death executed on one of the prisoners, 210; parliament prorogued, 233; the Cephalonian outbreak, 261.

Italy—the outrage on Mr. Mather by an Austrian officer, 21; Henry Stratford sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and his brother to six, 21; preparations in ease of war at Milan, 45; sentence of death passed on Mr. Edward Murray, 116; sentences by the military courts-martial at Udino, 142; numerous arrests at Venice, 166; opposition to the tax-gatherers, 166; closing of the hippodrome at Florence, in consequence of the anti-Bonapartist agitation, 188; English books obnoxious to the government of Lombardy, 188; suppression of an English Protestant school, 188; severe measures against the press, 188; an English artist thrown into prison for sketching, 189; a Yorkshireman prime minister of Parma, 189; terrible inundation at Milan, 213; eruption of Mount Etna, 213; an English lady imprisoned for two months for having contracted marriage with a Tuscan officer, 213; execution of twenty-four political offenders in the Roman States, 237; death of Archdeacon Cognazzi at Naples, 237; death of the Neapolitan minister of police, 237; imprisonment of Madia's and his wife for reading the Bible, 237; Roman and Neapolitan refugees exiled from Tuscany, 262;

deputation to the grand duke, praying for the release of the Madia's, 262; executions at Ancona, 262; and Manua, atrocious cruelty, 278.

Mexico—financial difficulties of the country, 23; Indian depredations, 190; revolution in the state of Guadaluara, 213; state of the country, 237; defeat of the government troops, 278.

New Zealand—steam communication between various settlements, 13.

Persia—attempts to assassinate the shah, 237.

Russia—the war with the Circassians, 69, 214; cholera ravages in Poland, 214; compulsory means of making the Polish noblemen enlist in the public service, 143.

Salomon Islands—murder of Mr. Boyd by the natives of the, 92.

Sandwich Islands—arrival of a Swedish vessel, fearful tragedy enacted on board, 215.

Spain—disturbances in the army, 21; decrees against newspapers, 21; attempt on the life of the Queen, 44; execution of the prisoner, 45; murder of four persons in Valencia, 188; funeral honours paid to the Duke of Wellington, 236.

Sweden—arrest of Mr. Nelson at Odessa for child murder, 237.

Switzerland—Mr. Thiers ordered to leave the country through the representations of the French envoy, 166; religious bigotry in, 188; inundations of the Upper Rhine, 213.

Turkey—destructive fires in Constantinople, 189; the three parties in Turkey, 189; earthquake in Armenia, 189; commutation of the punishment of death, 189.

United States—Kossuth's reception at Washington, 22; fire in the capitol of Washington, 22; emigration into New York, 22; the Mormon proceedings at the Salt Lake, 22, 46; frightful catastrophe in a building owned by the commissioners of emigration, 22; Kossuth's progress, 46; loss of the steamer Salado, about one hundred lives lost, 95; riot at St. Louis, 15; great slaughter of Indians, 143; death of Henry Clay, 167; question with the British government respecting the right of fishing on the coast of our North American colonies, 190; dreadful steam-boat accident on the Hudson, 190; the convict Maguire's oath to become a citizen of the United States, 191; question with the Peruvian government respecting the right of the Americans to take guano from the Lobos Islands, 214; emigration to Australia, 214; candidates for the presidential election, 237; death of Daniel Webster, 262; the president's message, 278.

West Indies.—Antigua, had state of the sugar crops, 92.—Demerara, the yellow fever at, 92; earthquake at, 113; gold found in, 182.—Jamaica, depressed state of agricultural affairs, 113, 208; small-pox in, 182; question of sending delegates to England to represent the state of the colony, 92; ravages of the yellow fever, 277.

LITERATURE AND ART.

Annual dinner of the Royal Academy, 118.

Books.—Account of the Danes and Norwegians in England, Scotland, and Ireland, 23; Adam Graeme of Moss-gary, 95; Adventures of a Beauty, by Mrs. Crowe, 71; Advocate, The, 191; African Wanderings, 117; Annals of Calais, 191; Aurelia, 95; Axiator, or the New Ptolemy, 95; Allerton and Drew, 23; Analysis and Critical Interpretation of the Hebrew Text of the Book of Genesis, by Mr. Paul, 47; Analysis and Summary of Herodotus, 264; Ancient Irish Minstrelsy, by Dr. H. Drummond, 260; Andersen's Danish Fairy Tales and Legends, 23; Annette, 215; Approach to the Altar and Exposition of the Creed, by Bishop Ken, 239; Archdeacon Hare's Contest with Rome, 143; Atlantic and Transatlantic Sketches, 143; A Ride

over the Rocky Mountains to Oregon and California, 23; Attempted Escape of Charles the First from Carlsbrook, 263; Australia as it is, 263; Australia in 1848-49, 143; A Winter Tour in India, by Capt. F. Egerton, 143; Bacon's Moral and Historical Works, 263; Basil, by Mr. Wilkie Collins, 263; Battles of the British Navy, 7; Battle of Leipsic, 215; Sir Charles Bell's Treatise on the Hand, 71; Better Times to Come, 47; the Blythedale Romance, 167; Buenos Ayres and the Provinces of Rio de la Plata, 93; Messrs. Black's Waverley Novels, 167; Miss Bremer's Works, 167; Sir T. Brown's Works, 71; Cabin Book or National Characteristics, 263; Calling and Responsibilities of a Governor, 191; Canada as it was and may be, 71; The Canadian Crusoe, 191; Cape and the Kafirs, by Mr. Cole, 47; Castle Avon, by Mrs. Marsh, 263; The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon, 143; Ceremonial Usages of the Chinese, by Mr. Raymond Ginzel, 215; Chambers's Life and Works of Burns, 191; Constance Tyrrell, 191; Coquet, Dale Fishing Songs, 47; Controverted Elections and Parliamentary Committees, by Mr. Pickering, 191; Course of the History of Modern Philosophy, by M. Victor Cousin, 239; Court and the Desert, 71; Darien, by Eliot Warburton, 23; Days of Bruce, 118; Deeds of Naval Daring, 71; Delamere's of Delamere Court, 23; Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography, by Dr. Smith, 23; Diary of a Journey from Constantinople to Corin, 71; Discourse of Matters pertaining to Religion, by Mr. Theodore Parker, 215; Discoveries in Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Peninsula of Sinai, 239; Dod's Parliamentary Companion, 191; Earls of Essex, by Capt. Devereux, 279; Earth, Plants, and Men, by Dr. Howard, 263; Eclipse of Faith, 95; Emily Howard, 23; English Agriculture, by Mr. Caird, 23; Esmond, by Mr. Thackeray, 263; Ethnology of Europe and the Ethnology of the British Islands, 191; Excursions in Ireland during 1844-50, by Miss C. O'Connell, 263; Gullistan, translated by Professor Eastwick, 263; Handbook of Belgium, by Mr. Murray, 191; Handbook of Church and State, by Mr. S. Redgrave, 47; Head's Forethought in Ireland, 263; Hearts and Altars, by Mr. Bell, 47; Heir of Ardennan, 47; Helen Talbot, by Miss Pennefather, 191; Hints to Travellers in Portugal, 191; Hippolytus and his Age, by the Chevalier Bunsen, 239; History of the American Revolution, 263; Historical Sketches, 70; History of an Adopted Child, by Miss Jewsbury, 263; History of All Saints Church, Sudbury, 191; History of New South Wales, by Dr. Lang, 279; History of British Birds, by Dr. M'Gillivray, 215; History of the British Empire from James the First, 47; History of the British Conquests in India, by Mr. Horace St. John, 143; History of the Crusades, 191; History of the Eighteenth (and Fifteen Years of the Nineteenth) Century, by Schlosser, 47; History of England and France under the House of Lancaster, 47; History of Egypt, by Mr. Sharp, 47; History of Greece, by Mr. Grote, 71; History of Physical Astronomy, by Mr. B. Grant, 74; History of the Island of Corfu, 71; History in Ruins, 263; History of the Wiltshire Ministry, 47; History of Trial by Jury, by Mr. Forsyth, 47; Histoire des Crimes du Deux Decembre, by M. V. Schœcher,

215; Holy, Military, Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, 239; Holland's Memoirs of the Whig Party, 70; Holmes' Poetical Works, 191; Household of Sir Thomas Moore, 23; How to See the British Museum, by Blanchard Jerrold, 47; Hullah's Grammar of Musical Harmony, 71; Hungary in 1851, by Mr. Loring Brace, 143; Iceland, and Travels in Sweden and Norway, 95; India in Greece, by Mr. Pococke, 23; Inner Africa laid open, 191; Invasions and Projected Invasions of England, by Professor Creasy, 47; Isis, an Egyptian Pilgrimage, by Mr. A. St. John, 263; Israel of the Alps, 205; Italian Navigation, 263; Japan and the Japanese, 117; Mr. Jerdan's Autobiography, 263; Journey to Nepal, by Mr. L. Oliphant, 117; Journey to the Country of China, 95; Journals of a Landscape Painter in Southern Calabria, by Mr. Levy, 239; Journal of a Voyage in Baffin's Bay, 191; Juvenal and Persius, 191; The Keepsake, 263; Knight's Imperial Cyclopaedia, 167; Knight's Pocket Cyclopaedia, 239; Lamartine's History of the Restoration, 70; Lardner (Dr.) on the Great Exhibition, 143; Latin-English Lexicon, by Dr. E. A. Andrews, 95; The Melvilles, 95; Law of International Copyright between England and France, 191; Lectures on Ancient History, 143; Lectures on Gold, 191; Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy in England, by Dr. Whewell, 71; Lena, or the Silent Woman, 71; Life of King Alfred, 117; Life of Admiral Blake, by Mr. Hepworth Dixon, 70; Life and Opinions of Dr. Blenkinsop, 263; Life of Chalmers, by the Rev. Dr. Hanna, 117; Life and Times of Francesco Sforza, 117; Life of Gustavus Vasa, 70; Life of Henry the Eighth, 70; Lives of the brothers Humboldt, 263; Life of Lord Jeffrey, 70; Life of the Rev. W. Kirby, 167; Life of Lord Langdale, by Mr. Duffus Hardy, 167; Life of Mary de Medicis, by Miss Pardoe, 167; Life of Napoleon, by Mr. Hazlitt, 167, 191; Life and Letters of Barthold George Niebuhr, 23; Life and Letters of Joseph Story, 23; Life of Taou-Kwang, late Emperor of China, 47; Life of General Washington, by the Rev. Mr. Upham, 23; Life of the Duke of Wellington, 239; Life in Bombay, 47; Lily of St. Paul's, 71; Literature and Romance of Northern Europe, by William and Mary Howitt, 71; Literary Fables of Yriarte, 71; Lives of the Contemporaries of Lord Clarendon, by Lady Theresa Lewis, 23; Mr. Chand's History of the Crusade, 71; Militia Acts, by John Sanders, 191; Modern Poets and Poetry of Spain, by W. J. Kennedy, 143; Moral Tales by Madame Guizot, 167; Moral Government, 117; My Life and Acts in Hungary, by the Hungarian General Görgei, 239; A Refutation of his Misstatements, by General Kmetzky, 239; Napoleon le Petit, by M. Victor Hugo, 215; Narratives of Criminal Trials in Scotland, 95; Opinions of Lord Palmerston, 47; Orations of Demosthenes, 263; Our Antipodes, 117; Our Navigation and Mercantile Marine Laws, 47; Our Iron Roads, 191; Outlines of the Natural History of Europe, 71; Palissy the Potter, by Mr. Morley, 239; Pathway of the Fawn, by Mrs. T. K. Hervey, 23; Pauperism and the Poor Laws, 71; Perils of Fashion, 71; Personal Adventures of our own Correspondent, 143; Phaeton, by Mr. Kingsley, 239;

Physician's Holiday, 167; Pictures from St. Petersburg, 215; Pictures of Life in Mexico, by Mr. R. H. Mason, 23; Poems of Coleridge, 167; Poetical Works of David M. Moir, 95; Poems and Poetry of the 19th Century, 279; Poetry of the Anti-Jacobin, 143; Political and Historical Works of Louis Napoleon, 47; Political Economy, 167; Rookingham Memoirs, 23; Roughing it in the Bush, by Mrs. Moody, 47; Reuben Medlicott, by Mr. Savage, 239; Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases, by Dr. Roget, 143; Scenes and Adventures in Central America, 71; School Economy, 118; School for Fathers, 95; School of Musical Composition, 191; Shakespeare and his Times, by M. Guizot, 163; Sidney Walker's Poems, 167; Sixteen Months in the Danish Isles, by Andw. W. Hamilton, 117; Sketches of English Literature, 47; Soloway, or the Waters of Comfort, 23; Stories of Nell Gwynn, and Sayings of Charles the Second, by Mr. Peter Cunningham, 45; Story of Reynard, the Fox, 239; Studies from the English Poets, 191; Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal, 117; Strickland's (Miss), Eighth Vol. of Lives of the Queens of England, 117; Symbols and Emblems of Christian Art, by Louisa Twining, 143; The Wanderer in Syria, 95; The Romance of the Forum, by Mr. Burke, 239; Tagus and the Tiber, by Mr. Baxter, 71; Tales of Mystery and Humour, 71; Talpa, or the Chronicle of a Clay Farm, 279; Thirty-five years in the East, 117; Traits of American Humour, 23; Treatise on the Methods of Observation and Reasoning in Politics, by Mr. Cornwell Lewis, 117; Turner and his Works, by Mr. John Bennett and Mr. Peter Cunningham, 117; Two Families, 23; Two years on the Farm of Uncle Sam, 191; Uncle Tom's Cabin, 118, 191; Uncle Walter, by Mrs. Trollope, 239; United States' Exploring Expedition, by Captain Wilkes, 263; Vegetation of Europe, 71; Village Life in Egypt, by Mr. Bayle St. John, 239; Cash-box, by Mr. Wilkie Collins, 23; Sir Christopher Wren and his Times, 70; Woman's Life, 167; Wynville, or Clubs and Coteries, 71; Young Singer's Book of Songs, 23.

WELLINGTON LITERATURE.—Description of "The Wellington Shield;" Booth's "History of the Battles of Quatre-Bras and Waterloo;" John Lemohne's "Wellington from a French point of View;" "Wellington Lyrics," by Mrs. E. Francis Smith; "Wellingtoniana, or Anecdotes," selected by John Timbs; "Wellington and Waterloo," by Alphonse De Lamartine; "Life of the Duke of Wellington," by Mr. J. H. Stoequeler; "The Military and Political Life of the Duke of Wellington;" "Burial of Wellington;" "Elegy" on the same subject; T. Binney on "Wellington as Warrior, Senator, and Man;" "Wisdom of Wellington, or Maxims of the Iron Duke;" an "Eloge on the Life and Character of the Duke of Wellington," by Lord Ellesmere, 263.

Book Trade, a meeting on the subject of the, 118.

British Institution, opening of the, 47.

General Theatrical Fund, grant of a charter to the, 47.

Provincial music meetings at Birmingham, Hereford, and Norwich, 215; Philharmonic Society, 167.

Theatres.—Her Majesty's, 215; Haymarket, 47; Royal Italian Opera, 167; St. James's, 47.

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.]

FROM THE 29TH DECEMBER TO THE 28TH JANUARY.

[PRICE 2d.]

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE language contains not many better pieces of writing than the few lines of prose prefixed by Dryden, at a time of much actual disaster and worse anticipation, to the first edition of his "*Annus Mirabilis*." He addresses himself to London as to the most renowned and late flourishing city; deploras what she has suffered from exhausting war, consuming pestilence, and more consuming fire; casts around her temporary decline the incense of a regal flattery, and ends by laying his poem at her feet. "Heaven never made so much piety and virtue to leave it miserable, I have heard, indeed, of some virtuous persons who have ended unfortunately, but never of any virtuous nation. Providence is engaged too deeply when the cause becomes so general."

At the commencement of a year which has opened with too much of the prospect of another *Annus Mirabilis*, the old poet's remark may help the reader to a somewhat easier digestion of the not very inviting fare served up in our narrative of the month. As he contemplates the aspect of affairs abroad and at home, as his eye wanders over the neighbouring shores of France or through the distant bush-land of Caffaria, as he reads of Hungary, of Germany, of Italy, and seems to see everywhere the clouds gathering more and more darkly, let him still derive comfort from the thought that "Providence is engaged too deeply when the cause becomes so general." That such is the instinct of a people themselves when they find themselves in such circumstances, would seem to be beyond a doubt. When we penetrate beneath the surface of any apparently general calamity, nothing is so strange as to find the ordinary currents of human life moving on with little suffering or disturbance. The student of our great civil wars is continually startled in this way; and every one knows with what an appetite Mr. Pepps and his friends, "all of us, to dinner, upon a good venison pasty, and mighty merry," amid London half-depopulated by the great plague, and more than half consumed by the great fire.

It is not many months since a loose representation was made in this Narrative of the various evil signs and tokens which, at that time, taking particular facts to justify general conclusions, seemed to announce the near dissolution of all order and society throughout the three kingdoms. Yet it may now be admitted in more sober seriousness that the misships which have signalled the opening of 1852 bear with a gloomier portent of disaster on the general interests and common welfare. Take as an illustration of this the five or six several topics, which, in gloomy succession, were the subject of editorial comment, in that single number of the leading journal which was published on the seventh morning of the new year.

First came the announcement that certain ruin impended over us unless the country could find a stronger government than that which has present possession of Downing Street, and after it an elaborate disquisition to prove that the state of parties was such as to render any stronger government

absolutely impossible. The incapacity of each was shown to be complete. The Protectionists had a mill-stone round their necks, with which even a show of action and progress was not compatible; the Manchester men laboured under the disadvantage of professions in advance of opinions, as well as of opinions decidedly in advance of facts; and not only were the Peelites in the painful dilemma of having a personal position at war with their public one, but, with too few followers to form a ministry, of having too many leaders to act with one. The inevitable conclusion presented itself, that there was nobody but Lord John for the place, but that Lord John was not strong enough for it, and that the good ship the State would soon be helpless among the breakers. Passing from this with saddened thoughts, the reader would next observe, by the subject which next invited his attention, that, not content with leaving our wooden walls to the dry-rot of inefficient superintendence, our public men had by careless and profligate ignorance exposed large bodies of our seamen to be poisoned by provisioning the navy with preserved meats unfit for human use. Then he would take note, that, such being our treatment of the navy, our treatment of the army had of late proceeded on the not less absurd as well as cruel principle of providing, by means of aimless muskets, awkward accoutrements, and scarlet coats, that they should always miss and never be missed by the enemy. Thoroughly disheartened by these unpalatable truths about the two great services, our student of the times might then pass with something like hope (short-sighted man!) to the next topic that awaited him, perceiving that it related to a branch of civil life and peaceful industry, in which British skill is confessedly pre-eminent, and of which the British Islands possess almost a monopoly. But here, alas! he would find, that, an unhappy dispute having arisen between the master engineers and their workmen, no less than thirty thousand of the best machinists and practical artisans in the world were just about to be turned adrift without employment, with a certain result of misery to the men and of distress to the masters incalculable, as well perhaps as of ruin irremediable to the machinists' trade, and a total destruction of the fund out of which engineering labour should in future have looked to be remunerated. Nor, though he might reasonably suppose himself by this time to have had his fill of doleful news for one day, would the lamentable record spare him even yet. Still there awaited him the announcement of a terrible fire at sea, unequalled in the records of such calamity; and, on the same woe-fraught page, the miserable tidings of new disgrace to our army in South Africa, and lamentations for the deaths of several officers high in the service of England, in a mean and unworthy conflict with hordes of untutored savages.

Such being the character of the day's comment in a single journal on the news of a single day, it would be useless to attempt, by any amount of smiling philo-

sophy, ingeniously to turn it into "all for the best." The outlook is bad, and the only best thing we can make of it, or the reader can make of it, is to admit as much; with the reassuring addition that there is nevertheless little call for despondency, and not the remotest for despair. It may turn out that we really wanted such a warning to set our house in order; and that, having got rid of that noisy fellow Brag, we shall find ourselves on a better understanding with our more discreet friend Holdfast. There is no saying whether even the successive tocins of alarm now sounding with every touch of the electric wire submerged beneath the Channel, may not prove to be the very best counter-irritants that in such a state of things could happen to us. After the first few shocks the nerves recover strength, and confidence becomes habitual. We begin to perceive that there are worse things than Caffirian wars; that the disasters of a too easy and idle way of governing are better borne than the whips and scorns of another kind of government; that what a free people sees to be necessary, involves no great trouble or time to obtain, when once the determination is taken; and that we should take at the same time the hint of danger supplied by an unscrupulous neighbour to ascertain what it really is that we want for our own security,—straightway setting about its acquisition, concentrating our future care on our own concerns, and abating our Quixotic propensity to settle the concerns of other people. All which being perceived and acted upon, it is not at all impossible but that the student above described may yet be able to find our next month's Narrative a miscellany of agreeable reading. It may even have the pleasant task of announcing to him that already our soldiers are better clad, our sailors better fed, and a better understanding exists between our workmen and their masters; that thus early the dreaded chances of a war have become remotely distant, because our fleets, recalled from Portuguese and African waters, are once more riding in the English Channel; that a common danger has happily re-knitted classes and interests too long divided, in England, by a supposed unassailable security; that even our Government has had spirit to strengthen itself, in the extremity, by a sufficient measure of reform; and that, confident of the best because provided against the worst, the good citizens of London in their intervals of rifle-practice, to which, as a manly amusement, they have very recently had the good sense to resort, are again able to look steadily and calmly in the direction of the French coast, and ask themselves, not without grave interest for the fate of a gallant people,—what Government next!

It is a question which M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte will probably at that very time again be asking of himself. He has had some eight or ten in the course of as many months, and each has marked broadly a definite step in his course, whether downward or upward it would as yet be premature to say. M. Odillon Barrot was unfit for the work which M. Leon Faucher did not scruple to undertake. M. Leon Faucher could not handle the work which M. Baroche was found perfectly at home in. M. Baroche had perforce stopped for breath when M. de Thorigny came in and relieved him. But even M. de Thorigny started back when the work of the 2nd of December was to be done, and left his place to be taken by M. de Morny. And now M. de Morny himself, the gay, the audacious, the unscrupulous, even he appears among the

"broken tools that tyrants cast away,"

and the scene is filled by M. de Persigny. How long will it so be filled! When will the lower deeps than that lowest importunately gape and be filled again!

What remains to be done which M. de Persigny himself may be found a too delicate instrument to do, after seizing upon private property with as little scruple as his predecessor laid hands on the public liberties! One feels it must be much that will arrest a service so eager and unblushing; and upon the work that may yet await the successor of M. de Persigny, therefore, the imagination forbears to dwell.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

It appears from the *Revenue Returns* for the year and quarter ending the 5th instant, that the revenue of 1851 has fallen short of that of 1850 by rather more than half a million. The receipts in the first and third quarters of 1851 were greater than in 1850; in the second and fourth they were less; but the fourth has been the most unfavourable. In that quarter, the decrease in 1851, as compared with the corresponding period of 1850, is 713,547*l.* The decrease on the year has taken place principally in the Stamps, Taxes, and Property-tax. The falling-off in the receipts from Stamps (162,092*l.*) may be traced to the working of the new Stamp Act (which has lightened the burdens on the transfer of property); and the falling off in the receipts from Taxes (796,216*l.*) to the circumstance that the Window-tax has ceased to be levied before the House-tax has come into play. In the Customs, there is an increase of 146,189*l.* on the year; in the Excise, of 89,209*l.*; in the Post office, of 244,000*l.* The increase in the last item has been attributed in a great measure to the Industrial Exhibition; and the falling-off in the receipts from Customs (37,193*l.*) and Excise (162,950*l.*) during the last quarter of the year, has been ascribed to a reaction among the spending part of the community—a disposition to economise in order to make up for the extra expenditure incurred by visits to the Great Exhibition.

A large public meeting has been held at Newcastle to petition Parliament against the renewal of the *Property-tax in any shape whatever*. Mr. Hodgson Linde moved the principal resolution, with arguments that no proposal would unite all interests in its favour except that of total abolition; but at last it was resolved, that the original resolution should be modified so as to demand the abolition of the tax only so far as it applies to income derived from trades and professions. In this shape the resolution was carried by a large majority; and it was resolved that a petition in accordance with the resolution should be sent to the House of Commons.

A Declaration in support of the decision in the *Gorham Case*, signed by 3262 names, nearly one fourth of the officiating clergy of the Church of England, has been forwarded to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who have expressed their approbation of its tenor. The document contained these passages;—

"We, the undersigned clergy of the Church of England, viewing with surprise and concern the attempts made by parties holding office in the Church to invalidate and nullify the judgment recently delivered by the Sovereign, as 'supreme governor of this realm, as well in all spiritual or ecclesiastical things or causes as temporal,' by the advice of the Privy Council and the Primates of the Church, in the case of '*Gorham versus the Bishop of Exeter*,' hereby testify our thankfulness for the judgment so delivered; and feel ourselves called upon, under present circumstances (whether holding or not the view which called forth the judgment), humbly to state our conviction that it was a wise and just sentence, in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. . . . Such attempts we hold to be equivalent to the enforcement of a standard of doctrine in our Church, by unauthorised individuals, opposed to that established by its supreme authority; and consequently, to be irreconcilable with the first principles of all church polity, and necessarily to lead to a state of disorder, strife, and confusion in the Church."

The Archbishop of Canterbury replied, that he had great satisfaction in receiving the declaration. He observed—

"There are many questions in theology upon which Christians may differ without reproach to themselves or injury to others. From the Reformation until the present time, members of our clergy have subscribed the same articles, have used the same formularies, have ministered in the same churches, whose sentiments, if they had been obliged to state them with logical precision, would have been found to vary, more or less from one another, both with regard to regeneration and to the effect of infant baptism. But this difference has not prevented their harmo-

nious co-operation, or impaired their usefulness; and I should have been seriously grieved if the period of my archiepiscopacy had been chosen as the period when freedom of opinion, within the reasonable limits hitherto deemed allowable, was for the first time denied to our clergy in a case where it is not denied them by the Word of God or the declared doctrine of the Church of England."

The Archbishop of York expressed his satisfaction that so large a number of the clergy "agree in regarding the judgment as 'a wise and just sentence,' in accordance with the principles of the Church of England;" and he added "the expression of his sincere hope, that it may be considered by all parties as a final settlement of the point in dispute, and thus tend to promote the peace and harmony among ourselves which the times and the circumstances of the Church require."

An address was lately presented by "the clergy and laity of the parish of Frome" to the Marchioness of Bath expressing grief and alarm at her intention to appoint Mr. W. J. E. Bennett, late Incumbent of *Knightsbridge*, to the *Vicarage of Frome*, and beseeching her to reconsider her intention. The prayer was enforced by reference to the most recent of Mr. Bennett's works, in which among other things, he declares that if the decision of the Judicial Committee in the Gorham case be not reversed, the faithful pastors of the Church of England will, within ten years, be ejected from her communion by the law, "and although not loving the peculiarities of Rome, compelled to seek salvation within her bosom;" "when Protestantism will sink into its proper place and die, and whatever is Catholic in the Church of England will become Roman." The Marchioness of Bath made the following answer, dated the 3rd inst. and addressed to the Rev. W. Calvert, vicar of Frome:—"I have received with sincere regret a communication signed by yourself and others, relating to the appointment of the Reverend W. J. E. Bennett to the vicarage of Frome, in my gift. In reply, I beg to inform you that the appointment is already made, and cannot be revoked." On receiving this reply, the petitioners addressed a memorial to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, praying him not to grant institution to Mr. Bennett. The Bishop has returned for answer that he is satisfied that Mr. Bennett is firmly attached to the Church of England and repudiates all Romish doctrines; and that therefore, "as it would be acting uncourtously to the Marchioness of Bath, whose firm attachment to our Church is so well known," to refuse institution, he adheres firmly to his intention of instituting Mr. Bennett.

The toast of "*The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster*" was proposed and drunk at the celebration of the opening of schools adjoining the Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist, Hackney, on the 13th inst. Mr. Sheriff Swift was in the chair.

The approaching sitting of Parliament has led to several meetings on the subject of *Parliamentary Reform*.

The *Westminster Reform Society*, which has been in abeyance for two or three years, was re-suscitated by a meeting of its members in Exeter Hall on the 20th inst. It was explained, that the suspended action of the society was owing to the necessity for repose to the public mind after the Corn-law repeal, and to the deadening effect of the Great Exhibition on all questions "merely political." But now that a dissolution of Parliament is expected, the society will be put in working order, and made ready for action. A committee, named from the different parishes in the city, was appointed; and it was remitted to them to revise the rules and regulations now existing, and report to a future meeting to be held soon after the meeting of Parliament.

The Council of the *Manchester Parliamentary Reform Association* assembled on the 20th, to draw up their claims on Parliament for a share proportionate to the wealth and population of Lancashire in the new distribution of Parliamentary franchise which is to be made by Lord John Russell's Reform Bill. Mr. George Wilson was in the chair. The following resolution, embodying the case of Lancashire, was moved by Mr. Bright, and unanimously adopted:—

"That the population of the county of Lancaster, by the

census of 1851, is declared to be upwards of 2,000,000, or one-eighth part of the population of England, and a fourteenth of that of the United Kingdom; that its taxable property, by a Parliamentary return of the session of 1847, is declared to be £463,363; or more than one-tenth of the whole rateable property of England; that its contributions to the national exchequer, whether from Customs contributions or from payments of the various branches of the inland revenue, far exceed the average of the population area of the United Kingdom; that its position with regard to industry, wealth, intelligence, and population, is second to no other county of the United Kingdom; that on all these grounds, this meeting is of opinion, that in any measure of Parliamentary Reform to be introduced by the Government, or enacted by the Legislature, the number of members returned from this county should be largely increased, in order that its influence in the House of Commons may correspond to the magnitude of its interests and to its importance as a portion of the United Kingdom."

Mr. Kershaw, M.P., moved the adoption of a petition by the inhabitants of Manchester, in favour of the principles lately adopted by the Manchester Parliamentary Reform Association, and promulgated to the country. The petition was adopted; and the business wound up with a resolution to open a subscription to advance the question of Parliamentary Reform.

The *Leeds Reformers* held a meeting on the same day. Alderman Wilson presided. Mr. Edward Baines said, that though not prepared to go so far as the Manchester resolutions, he was willing to sink any differences at present for the sake of unanimity of action. Alderman Carbutt moved a franchise resolution founded on the Manchester programme; and Mr. David Green seconded him, in a speech in favour of universal suffrage. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Frith moved that "manhood suffrage" should be demanded of the Legislature. The amendment was put to the meeting, and the numbers for and against it were so equal that the Chairman could not decide the majority. Another division was taken, and the amendment was declared lost. The original proposition was then affirmed. Resolutions in favour of the ballot, triennial Parliaments, and no property qualification, were then passed unanimously.

Meetings on the subject of Parliamentary Reform have also been held at Nottingham, Derby, and other places.

The *Constituency of Sheffield* held their annual meeting with their representative, Mr. Roebuck, on the 13th inst., when he addressed them, as usual, on the political topics of the day, and responded to queries put to him. A vote of thanks and confidence was passed by acclamation. The portion of his speech relating to our foreign relations and our means of defence made a great impression, and was vehemently cheered. He had much anxiety on this subject, because he felt that we lived on the eye of stirring times. "Among my fellow-countrymen," he said, "and among those whose politics I have the greatest regard, with whom I have the greatest sympathy, with whom I daily act in the House of Commons, there is a feeling which I believe is an erroneous one. Now, Mr. Cobden—I call him, and I am sure he will permit me so to do, my friend Mr. Cobden—not long ago, when that wonderful, and in my notion horrible catastrophe, happened in France, said, 'That is the consequence of an army.' But supposing that you are living in the country and in an isolated house—that you learnt to-morrow morning that the house of a neighbour in the same situation as yours had been entered and rifled and its master killed—should you think it wise to open your doors, to take away all your bolts, to draw the loading from your guns and pistols and bury them in the garden, and expect that you were to be quite safe from moral force and public opinion? Now, that is our difficulty at present. I acknowledge the evils and horrors of an overwhelming army; but I say to my country, do not be in a fatal security. There are mischievous feelings abroad, and despotism is triumphant in Europe now. Constitutional government, liberty, and truth, have their sacred sphere only in England. If England be invaded and crushed, that liberty and that truth must fly across the Atlantic for protection. Europe would be a continent of slaves; a darkness would come over mankind; and that torch of truth which is now held up almost singly by the glorious arm of England would be reversed and extinguished. Shall such a thing be? And shall I,

representing the people of England, tell you not to be alarmed, not to expect encroachment, not to expect that real aggression? I will do no such thing. Be prepared! Have a national army, and, let soldiers say what they like, if the thing be properly done, we shall give a good account of anybody who comes here. Now, I am not going to terrify my countrymen—I am not going to hold the hand, and say, 'For God's sake, do not come here!'—for that is the language of most people who are so terribly afraid that they should give courage to their opponents. I say, be not afraid, but be ready; and if they do come, let them never return."

A Meeting of the Clergy of the Archdeaconry of London, was held at Stion College on the 22nd, in consequence of a requisition addressed to Archdeacon Hale, for the purpose of petitioning Parliament to *Discontinue the Endowment to Maynooth College*. The speakers were Archdeacon Hale, Dr. Croly, Dr. Worthington, Dr. Vivian, the Reverend Messrs. Hartwell Horne, E. Auriol, J. Gelling, Ellis, Dale, Cox, Ram, and Redwar. The following declaration was adopted.

1. That the rapid increase of the Papal power throughout the whole extent of the Queen's dominions, and the facilities now possessed by the Church of Rome for the dissemination of her doctrines among all orders of the community, is a well-grounded cause of alarm to all who duly appreciate the value of that deliverance from Romish error which was wrought for our Church by the good Providence of God at the period of the Reformation.

2. That although it may now be, in a political point of view, a matter of difficulty that the Government of this country should at once depart from that line of policy under the shelter of which Romanism has made such rapid advances, it is nevertheless incumbent upon us firmly, but humbly, to express our opinion of the erroneous character of that policy, and our conviction that the full exercise of the supreme authority of the Pope over the clergy and laity of the Romish communion in England and Ireland is incompatible with the supremacy of the Crown, and has endangered not only the Established Church but also the stability of the Throne.

3. That whilst we deeply lament the circumstances in which Roman Catholic Ireland is placed, and are justified in avowing that the granting political privileges to Roman Catholics has conferred no benefit upon that country, either in social improvement or the increase of its wealth, we are also of opinion that the attempt to improve the character of the native Roman Catholic priesthood, and to attach them to the English nation and Government, by affording them the means of education at the College of Maynooth in the place of education in foreign seminaries, has not less signally failed.

4. That when we call to mind the condition of England and Ireland at the time when the first proposition was made to establish a Roman Catholic seminary at Maynooth, and are therefore bound to give credit to the statesmen of those times for believing themselves justified by the peculiar circumstances of the case in advising a Protestant nation to take under its protection and to contribute to the support of such an institution, we still hold the opinion, that the measure was wrong as respects not only political expediency but also religious principle, and that it is the duty of Parliament no longer to support that institution by endowment or by grant; being firmly convinced in our own mind, that the conduct of the Legislature in respect of religion is a part of our moral duty as a nation, and that neglect of duty and disregard of the pure faith of the Gospel causes nations, not less than individuals, to incur the displeasure of Him "by whom kings reign and princes decree justice."

It was resolved unanimously, that a petition framed on this declaration be presented to the House of Lords through the Bishop of London, and to the House of Commons through Sir Robert Inglis.—An overflowing meeting in the Town Hall of Reading, on the 19th adopted petitions to Parliament for the repeal of the Maynooth College Endowment.

A meeting for promulgating the *General Revival of Diocesan Synods* was held on the 22d. The Reverend T. Collins, Rural Dean of Ripon, presided, and the speakers were the Honourable John Talbot, Mr. F. H. Dickenson, Lord Lyttelton, the Reverend Canon Trevor, Sir Walter James, the Honourable and Reverend W. Howard, and the Reverend Messrs. Scott, Gunner, Hamilton, Carter, and Smith. Resolutions were unanimously adopted to the effect that Diocesan Synods are necessary for the well-being of the Church, and the spiritual interests with which it is connected; that the present mode of diocesan government by the sole and unlimited mind of the diocesan, is inconvenient and injurious to the Church itself, inconsistent with the true principle of episcopal authority, and

opposed alike to Scripture precedents and the practice of the primitive Church in the best and earliest ages; and that a Diocesan Synod would be a source of great help and assistance to a Bishop, in suggesting plans of usefulness, in supplying details of diocesan information, in maintaining his own rightful authority, and in supporting by its united co-operation such local and diocesan plans and arrangements as he may deem necessary for the welfare of his people. The meeting invited all churchmen to unite with them in the promotion of this object, and adjourned to the 29th of April, the meeting to be held at Gloucester.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

Mr. Joshua Edwards, a respectable merchant in Liverpool, *Committed Suicide* on the 22nd ult., by taking prussic acid. It appeared, from a coroner's inquest, held on the 7th inst., that he had recently become embarrassed in circumstances, and had been particularly distressed since the receipt of a letter announcing the dishonour of a bill for 1000*l.*, of the firm of which he was the head. A verdict of temporary insanity was returned.

At Guildhall, on the 27th ult., Mrs. Dawson, *alias* Phæbe Blakeney, residing near Maida hill, appeared on discharge of her bail, for re-examination on the charge of having committed *Wilful Perjury* in the year 1833, by taking an affidavit in Doctors' Commons to the effect that she was the only lawful daughter and the next of kin to the late Mrs. Elam, the widow of Lieutenant Elam, of the 8th Garrison Battalion.—On a former examination it appeared that Lieutenant Elam married a Miss Hood or Wood, in 1807; that a separation took place, and in 1828 Miss Georgiana Elam was born, and in 1829 Lieutenant Elam died. That the late Lord Portarlington lived with Mrs. Dawson, then a friend of Mrs. Elam's, and at the death of the latter in 1833, she took charge of the child, Miss Elam, and administered to the property of Mrs. Elam, sworn at under 500*l.*, as her daughter, and only next of kin. It was alleged for the defence that Mrs. Elam was fifty-eight years of age when she died, and not forty-eight as stated in her burial certificate, and that during the several years she was separated from her husband she lived with Lord Portarlington, who had been also living with Mrs. Dawson, who, it was contended, was Mrs. Elam's daughter, by Robert Blakeney, her former husband. It was also stated for the defence that Lord Portarlington was sixty-two, and Mrs. Elam fifty-three years old, when Miss Elam was brought forward as his lordship's child, in 1828, the year in which she was born, and the defendant's counsel pledged himself to prove that Miss Elam was purchased by Mrs. Elam, and palmed off upon Lord Portarlington for the purpose of obtaining money from him, he being highly delighted at the birth of the child. On this, as on the previous occasion, a variety of evidence was offered tending on one part to show that Miss Elam (who was present) was the child of Mrs. Elam, and on the other that she was a changeling. The case was finally remanded, and Mrs. Dawson was allowed to depart without renewing her recognizances, on a pledge that she should be forthcoming at the next examination.

A *Mutiny has broken out among the Convicts at Woolwich*, on the alleged ground that the authorities had broken faith with them, as certain periods had been fixed when, if they conducted themselves well, they would be sent out of the country and obtain tickets of leave on arriving at their destination. In several instances, it appears, the period had been exceeded, in consequence of the difficulty in finding localities where such convicts would be received. Symptoms of insubordination had been observed for several days, which led to measures of precaution. On the 30th ult., on the return of the convicts on board the Warrior convict-ship to dinner, they rushed down and took possession of two of the decks, defying the guards or any of the military to come near them. Captain Stopford, superintendent of the dockyard, was immediately communicated with, and the aid of the guards of the Artillery

and Marines called on board. The military with drawn cutlasses, went below and brought up and heavily ironed thirty-eight of the most outrageous, and disarmed them of the knives, forks and sharpened files, of which they had by some means become possessed. They were all conveyed to Millbank Penitentiary. The other convicts have resumed their labour under their guards as usual in the dockyard, but seven, whose conduct was very bad, have been flogged, as an example to the rest.

Another *Agrarian Murder* has been committed in the North of Ireland. While Mr. James Eastwood of Castle House, in the county of Louth, was walking home from Dundalk to Castletown, on Wednesday evening, the 24th ult., he had approached a quarry on the side of a by-way leading from the Castleblayney road, and facing his orchard, which is situated at the back of his dwelling-house, not distant more than one-eighth of a mile. He had crossed the stile, at the gate leading to the farm-yard, when he observed three men following him. They soon made up to him, and began to use abusive language, which was immediately followed by an attack with sticks and stones—he having no means of defence further than an umbrella, which he carried under his arm. Having beaten him, they flung him into the quarry, leaving him for dead. He was discovered by one of his female servants who had him conveyed home. Notwithstanding dreadful wounds on his head, it was at first thought he might recover, but he survived only a few days. His character was that of a kind and considerate landlord. The principal part of his Dundalk estate was occupied by himself; and his labourers employed in farming it received 6s. 9d. a week. In August last he removed six or eight families from a farm near Ball's mill, which they had held conjointly, and had paid little or no rent for a series of years. He had zealously tried to establish linen manufacture on a portion of his estate, and has employed women and children in great number in weaving. He was patron of the local Sunday School, under the Church Education Society; and a very short time before he was attacked he had given premiums of money for distribution among the children at Christmas. A requisition has been made, requesting Lord Bellew, lieutenant of that county, to convene the magistracy to consider the state of the district, with a view to the adoption of decided measures for the suppression of outrages. Several other baronies adjacent to the scene of outrage have also been proclaimed.

At a meeting of the magistrates of Armagh, on the 30th ult., for the purpose of taking into consideration the *Disturbed State of the County*, it was unanimously resolved, that application be made to the Government to make such an addition to the police and military force in the disturbed districts of the county as may be necessary to enforce the law and protect life and property; and that in all cases of trial for any agrarian outrage special juries be empanelled to try the accused parties. That all the expenses incurred for the maintenance of extra police be chargeable upon the townlands for which such extra force may be required; and that the rate rendered necessary for their support be levied forthwith by the police authorities.

A barbarous *Murder* has been committed in Leitrim. Three armed men entered the dwelling-house of a poor man named John Curran, residing at Corduff; and, having placed him on his knees, one of them discharged the contents of a loaded gun through his heart, leaving him a lifeless corpse on his own floor! They quietly departed; and although there were two of the deceased man's daughters present at the time, one of whom was a married woman, neither of them as much as raised the cry of murder, or endeavoured by any means to obstruct the escape of the assassins. This crime, it appears, was not connected with the possession of land, but was caused by some family quarrel, and the murderers, it is probable, were the victim's near relations. An inquest was held, but the jury were unable to return a verdict against any particular persons.

A special commission has been issued for trial of *Agrarian Conspirators* in the county of Monaghan.—It is a somewhat novel feature of Irish crime to find its scene transferred from those localities where, up to within the last few years, neither life nor property

could be counted safe between the rising and the setting of the sun, to a quarter where, of all others, security for both was regarded as certain as they would be in Kent or Middlesex. The southern counties are enjoying perfect tranquillity. The magistrates of Limerick and Kerry are calling for reductions of the constabulary; the occupation of that excellent body being nearly altogether gone. In the far west the state of society shows a similar improvement. In one county (Roscommon) the services of 100 policemen have been dispensed with, and the reports of the business of the courts of quarter-sessions in the province of Connaught, all tend to prove that the reign of turbulence in that neglected district has come to a conclusion.

At the Marlborough-street police court, on the 27th ult., a soldier of the Life Guards having been summoned by a young woman for *Refusing to Support an Illegitimate Child*, the magistrate dismissed the complaint on the ground that he had no jurisdiction. By the *Mutiny Act* a soldier cannot even be summoned before a magistrate for a matter of the kind in question; he can only be taken out of the service by process on account of any charge of felony, or misdemeanour committed with violence to the person, property, effects, &c. The young woman asked if she had no remedy in law? Mr. Hardwick said he knew of none.

A most daring *Murder* was perpetrated on the 27th of December at Belper by a man named Anthony Turner, who had been for some years in the habit of collecting rents for a widow lady named Barnes, who lived with a relative, the Rev. J. Banister, a clergyman of the Church of England, at Field House. Having been a defaulter to a considerable amount, Mrs. Barnes sent him a note a few days previously to say that he would not be allowed to collect any more rents, and that he was to consider himself discharged from his situation. On the above evening he went into a provision shop at Belper and borrowed a large carving-knife, such as is used for cutting bacon. He then went to Mrs. Barnes's house; she refused to see him, on which he pushed the servant-girl aside, and rushed up stairs. The servant, very much alarmed, ran to fetch the Rev. Mr. Banister, who was in an adjoining building. He immediately ran into the house, and met Turner coming down with the knife in his hand, which was covered with blood. Turner made a desperate attempt to cut the reverend gentleman with the knife, but after a sharp struggle between them the murderer was precipitated down stairs. Mr. Banister immediately went into Mrs. Barnes's room, where he found her lying upon the ground, with her head almost severed from her body. One of her thumbs had been cut off, as if in struggling with the murderer. Turner after passing Mr. Banister on the stairs, on leaving the house met the servant-girl coming in, and he made an attempt to strike her with the knife, but she turned her head and evaded the blow. The murderer then ran off at the top of his speed, and for the time escaped pursuit. The electric telegraph at the Belper station was immediately set to work, and the news conveyed in a few minutes to Derby, Nottingham, and other midland towns, but it was not till the evening of the 29th that he was captured, in his mother's house, where he had taken refuge. Two constables, who had been on his track, went into the house together, and on seeing them Turner retreated up stairs, and made an attempt on his life by cutting his throat with a common table-knife; but the wound was a very slight one, a constable having struck him a blow on the arm before he had time to do himself much injury. He was immediately secured, and conveyed to Belper. An inquest having been held, a verdict of "wilful murder" was returned against Turner, and he was committed for trial.

Early on the morning of the 5th inst., a person named Managan, who was on the 27th ult. committed for trial for having, under pretence of being clerk to Mr. Horry, the barrister, obtained from a Mrs. White 17s. 6d. for the purpose of defending her son at the Middlesex Sessions, committed *Suicide*. The unfortunate man, who was a touter at the Old Bailey and other courts, committed the act by keeping his head in a pail of water, brought to him that he might wash himself.

William Baldry, a farmer of Preston, near Laven-

ham in Suffolk, has been committed to prison on a charge of *Attempting to Poison* his wife. A child and a servant-girl were also made ill by drinking things prepared for that purpose. It appears from the evidence taken by a magistrate, that Baldry put arsenic in beer and coffee which he gave to the woman. The poison affected her, but not mortally; apparently the greater part had remained in the vessels used, in the form of sediment. Her mother noticing the sediment, on one occasion preserved it in a bottle, and a chemist proved that it was arsenic. Baldry told a man that he had given his wife some "powders," as he had found they did himself good: he offered this man the bribe of a pig not to say anything about the matter; remarking that he would give the doctor, who attended his wife, another pig if he also would keep silence. Mrs. Baldry had some money, which she refused to let her husband have, and in consequence he had treated her harshly.

A case settling the *Liability of Railway Companies for Luggage*, was decided at the Marylebone County Court on the 10th inst. A lady named Goodman, residing at Uxbridge, brought an action against the Great Western Railway Company, for 35*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, being the value of some luggage lost at the station. It appeared from the statement of an omnibus conductor, named Long, who was brought up on a *habeas corpus* expressly to state the manner in which luggage was stolen, that it was customary, on the arrival of the train, for the porters to bring out the passenger's luggage, and that any omnibus conductor might get hold of it and drive off. The company, in this case, did not deny the loss or the value of the luggage, but contended that the company were not liable, as it was expressly stated in their bye-laws that every first-class passenger would be allowed 112*lb.*, and every second-class passenger 56*lb.*, free of charge, but that the company would not be responsible for luggage unless booked and paid for. The plaintiff in this case had not complied with this bye-law. In support of the plaintiff's case, it was stated, that in order to test the "bye-law" she had actually applied to the station-clerk to book her luggage, and this had been refused. Mr. Amos (the judge) said it would be a most extraordinary thing if the company could enforce such a law as this, made by themselves, and compel passengers to book their luggage to ensure the responsibility of the company. A verdict was at once given in favour of the plaintiff for the whole amount, and costs.

A Board of Examination has been sitting at Gosport on the 30th ult, and several following days, for the purpose of *Examining the Preserved Meats supplied by contract to the Navy*, the Admiralty having cause to suspect their purity. The examination has disclosed some horrible facts. The canisters containing the meat are upon the average about 10*lb.* canisters. On the first day 642 of them were opened, out of which number no fewer than 573 were condemned, their contents being masses of putrefaction. On the second day 779 canisters were opened, out of which number 734 were condemned. On the third, 791 canisters were opened, out of which number 744 were condemned. And on the fourth, 494 canisters were opened, out of which 459 were condemned. On subsequent days the examination was continued, with similar results. The condemned canisters contained such substances as pieces of heart, roots of tongue, pieces of palates, pieces of tongues, coagulated blood, pieces of liver, ligaments of the throat, pieces of the intestines, and other garbage in a state of putridity. The examining board and party were compelled to use profusely Sir W. Burnett's disinfecting fluid to save themselves from the effects of the pestilential exhalations. This stuff was supplied to the Admiralty and delivered into store at Clarence Yard last November twelvemonth, warranted equal to sample and to keep sound and consumable for five years. It was brought by the contractor from Galatz in Moldavia, where he has a contract for tallow with the Russian Government.

Giovanni Kalabergo, an Italian, who has for many years carried on the business of a jeweller at Banbury, was *Murdered* on Saturday night, the 10th inst., about three miles from that town. He was in the habit of travelling to the neighbouring villages in a light cart;

on the above evening he was returning to the town, accompanied by a nephew, a young man who has been in England only two months. About half-past five o'clock, Kalabergo's body was discovered on the road at Wilcott Hill: it was yet warm; he had been shot through the head with a bullet; the cart was a little distance forward on the road, untended. The nephew came into Banbury with an improbable story, that he and his uncle were attacked by robbers, who killed his uncle. But Kalabergo's pockets had not been rifled. The nephew was taken into custody, and attempted to escape by leaping from the window of a public house, but was immediately re-taken. He has been committed for trial at the next Oxfordshire assizes.

The little town of Loughrea, in the county of Galway, has been the scene of a horrible *Domestic Tragedy*. On the night of the 15th inst., Mrs. Coggrave, the wife of the head constable of police, during the absence of her husband from the barracks, sent her maid on a message, and having secured the door, proceeded to the bed where her children, two boys, aged respectively 4½ years and 9 months, were sleeping, and murdered them by cutting their throats with a razor. The head of the elder child was nearly severed from the body, and the wound upon the neck of the other was such as must have produced immediate death. She then attempted to put an end to her own life by the same means, but did not succeed in doing so. Her husband is supposed to be insane since the fatal occurrence, and remains strictly guarded by some of the police. No blame attached to any party beside the unhappy woman herself, nor can any cause be assigned which might lead to the commission of the fearful deed. She is described as having been a person of a morbid and brooding disposition, much prone to novel reading, and she lived in a very secluded manner during the last nine months, but her conduct to her husband was most affectionate.

A Parliamentary Return has been printed, showing, in a tabular form, the *Business Transacted in the County Courts* in the year ending the 31st of December, 1850. In the year there were 396,793 plaintiffs entered, and the number of causes tried was 217,173. The total amount for which plaintiffs were entered was 1,265,115*l.*, of which it appears that judgment was given for 617,586*l.*, and that there was paid into court, to the credit of the plaintiffs, by the defendants, before trial, 88,330*l.* The number of causes tried were about 55 in the hundred of the number of plaintiffs entered. The amounts claimed by the plaintiffs which did not proceed to trial were in most cases paid directly to the plaintiffs by the defendants, and were not, therefore, recorded in the books of the court; while in other cases the plaintiffs had not proceeded with the suits. The total amount of Judges' Fees and officers' fees is returned at 205,687*l.* There were 769 causes tried by jury out of 217,173. The Courts sat 8153 days. There were 14,393 executions paid without levy, and 30,832 enforced. Of 13,086 commitments ordered, only 5,693 were carried into effect.

Thomas Bare, the person who *Killed his Wife* in Marylebone, has been tried in the Central Criminal Court. The evidence was nearly the same as that given before the Police Magistrate. For the prisoner it was urged that the Jury might return a verdict for the lesser offence of manslaughter. The attack on the woman was preceded by a hasty quarrel; the instrument of the homicide was a file, not a knife: circumstances hardly consistent with a deliberate intention to commit murder. The Jury consulted for some time, and then convicted of manslaughter. Mr. Baron Platt seemed, from his address to the prisoner, to have been hardly satisfied with the lenient verdict: he passed a sentence of transportation for life.

Mr. Ramsay, the late Judge of the Liverpool County Court, has caused a notice to be served on the treasurer of the Court, prohibiting him, at his peril, from paying to the new Judge his quarter's salary which is now due, and another notice on Mr. Pollock himself, prohibiting him from receiving it. He has also served notice on the Earl of Carlisle, that he intends, on an early day in the ensuing term, to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a *quo warranto* to restrain Mr. Pollock from acting.

At the Worship Street Police Court, on the 20th,

Rogers, a journeyman painter, of Jane Street, St. Luke's, charged his son, a boy twelve years of age, with *Robbery*. The father stated that the prisoner was the youngest of his several children, and that his evil courses have kept the family in constant distress and privation. He had repeatedly broken open his father's drawers, and carried off the contents to turn them into money; and several times when the father had fallen asleep in his chair after his day's work, the young reprobate had cut off his waistcoat pocket with all his wages in it, and disappeared till he has spent all the money. In the same manner, while his mother was lately sitting at work, he stealthily raised her dress, cut out her pocket, carried off all her money, and disappeared for several days. Shortly after he came home on the last occasion, he was intrusted with a shilling by a friend of his father, and was sent out to make a trifling purchase in the neighbourhood; but he never returned; and nothing was heard of him until the following evening, when the owner of a fruit-stall in the same street came and complained that he had gone off with another piece of silver given him to get changed. He had a glazier's diamond which he tried to sell; and the father found, on examination, that his drawer had again been broken open and this diamond stolen. A lad produced the diamond in court, and stated that the young thief had sold it to him under pretence that his father had done with it. It appeared that the prisoner had been once before summarily convicted and imprisoned for six weeks. He was committed for trial.

At the *Insolvent Debtors Court*, on the 17th, John Mills, described as an author, who applied under the Protection Act, was opposed by two creditors named Magniss and Thompson.—The opposing creditors were holders of bills of exchange given by the insolvent, and the question was, what reasonable expectations the insolvent had for contracting his debts. His wife was in expectation of money by the death of a relative, and a friend expected a chancery suit to be settled. He had made himself liable for debts, and had sold for 120*l.* furniture which had cost him more than 300*l.* Mr. Magniss had discounted bills for the insolvent, and admitted that he had charged 30 per cent. as discount. The insolvent said that Mr. Magniss had charged him 60 per cent.—Mr. Commissioner Phillips said that if the opposition stood alone he should pay little attention to it, but he looked at the schedule and saw the manner in which some of the debts had been contracted. He should give no assistance to gentlemen—and it should be made public—who took, by their own admission, 30 per cent. They were their own insurers, and need not complain.—Mr. Thompson, the other complainant, said he was in the same "boat" as the other. He had charged 30 per cent.—Mr. Commissioner Phillips: Do not call it boat, call it *craft*.—Mr. Thompson said he had lost 1000*l.* by the persons from whom he took the bills of the insolvent.—Mr. Commissioner Phillips had no doubt bill discounters ran great risks—it was part of their profession. They were their own insurers, and were not, under the Prisoners' Act, entitled to any protection. This case was under the Protection Act, and upon the face of the schedule it was clear that the insolvent had incurred debts without reasonable expectations of payment. He had no authority under the act to name a day for the final order, and therefore it must be adjourned sine die without protection.

At a very early hour on the morning of the 16th, a *Robbery* took place in St. Andrew's-road, Newington-causeway, most extraordinary in its extent and success. Some thieves effected an entrance into two empty houses, and from thence walked each way amongst those which were inhabited, until they had succeeded in tearing from their settings, and carrying away, the coppers from no less than ten adjoining houses. The thieves also abstracted several live ducks from the yards, a quantity of bacon, as well as dressed and undressed food from the larders, and other articles; with the whole of which they got clear off. To effect these robberies must have occupied at least two hours (and it may be observed that several attempts had been made), while the weight of the coppers alone was not less than three or four cwt., which it must have required a horse and cart to remove, and this must have been kept

waiting close on the spot for a considerable time, at a most unseasonable hour of the night, without being noticed by any of the police.

The sentence on Sarah Ann Hills, convicted at York for the *Murder* of her new-born infant, has been commuted to transportation for life.

A *Commission of Lunacy* has been sitting during the greater part of this month to inquire into the sanity of Mrs. Catherine Cumming, an aged widow-lady residing at St. John's Wood. The inquiry was promoted by her married daughters, Mrs. Ince and Mrs. Hooper, who alleged that their mother, having a considerable property at her disposal, was not, from her state of mind, competent to its management, and was under the influence of persons who profited by her imbecility. The circumstances of the case were excessively complicated, involving many family quarrels and legal disputes and transactions, of no public interest. The allegation of insanity, or of incapacity to manage her affairs, was denied on the part of Mrs. Cumming herself; and an investigation of enormous length took place, in the course of which a host of witnesses were examined on both sides,—relations, friends, acquaintances, servants, solicitors and other legal advisers, and medical men; and the mass of evidence, reported at great length in the daily papers, was accumulated of the most confused and contradictory kind. After sitting for sixteen days, the proceedings of the Commission were terminated by a verdict finding that Mrs. Cumming was of unsound mind, and incapable of managing her affairs, and had been so from May 1, 1846. It has been announced, however, that Mrs. Cumming is to institute proceedings to set aside the verdict, in consequence of the opinion, formally delivered by her counsel, that the verdict is manifestly against the evidence. This "monster" inquiry has been carried on at the rate of 350*l.* per day; the total expence being 5600*l.*

At the Clerkenwell Police Court, on the 24th, Ann White, a miserable, disreputable-looking young woman, was put at the bar for final examination on the charge of having *Murdered her Infant Child*, of nine months old. On her first examination, it appeared that she had resided in Somers'-town, with her two children, one seven years old, and the deceased; that they were frequently left by her without food, fire, or clothes, and otherwise so utterly neglected that her landlord eventually deemed it his duty to call in a constable, with whose assistance the poor sufferers were removed to St. Pancras work-house, and she was shortly afterwards found rolling about drunk and taken into custody. The deceased and the other child were speedily examined by Mr. Robinson, the parochial surgeon, who found them sinking rapidly from the combined want of food and general neglect; that they were in a state almost impossible to describe, and swarming with vermin. Everything which humanity could dictate was immediately bestowed on the little helpless creatures; but death happily terminated the sufferings of the one, and the other is recovering. The board of St. Pancras, on the former inquiries, had declined to prosecute, and were severely censured by the magistrate, who said that, in a matter of such atrocity, importance, and nicety, a meanness ought not to exist, especially with a parochial body, and he wished them to review their decision. It now appeared the parish-officers had profited by the recommendation of the magistrate, as the clerk to the vestry appeared as public prosecutor, and called another witness, who proved almost unheard-of brutality by the accused towards her poor children. The magistrate, at the conclusion of the examination, said it was a most painful case, and committed the prisoner to Newgate to take her trial.

An action has been tried at the Marylebone County Court bearing upon the subject of *Medical Fees*. The plaintiff was Mr. Brown, a consulting surgeon in Oxford-square, and the defendant was Mr. Bankes, a gentleman residing in the same neighbourhood. Mr. Brown stated that, on the 23rd of May last, the defendant asked him to go immediately to his sister, Mrs. Haifenden, of Layton Hall, Notts, who was dangerously ill. He did so, the distance from town being about 150 miles. The usual charge is 10*s.* 6*d.* per mile, or 15 guineas per day, and 7*s.* 6*d.*, for 300 miles, was not a large sum. The old

charge by doctors of medicine had been 17. 1s. for post horses, but since the introduction of railways it was reduced to 10s. 6d. per mile. He went by first-class carriages, and was obliged to have a deputy to attend patients while absent. Previous to going, Mrs. Haffenden had written to him, as an old attendant, to come down, and he replied that he would do so for 10 guineas, if she gave him two days' notice. She had been ill ever since her marriage. In answer to questions by Mr. Parry, the barrister, for defendant, the plaintiff declined stating the nature of her disorder, and said there was no difference in the charges of physicians and consulting surgeons. The husband of the lady had treated him most discourteously, and had repudiated his services. Dr. Tyler Smith said he had been a physician eleven years, and always considered the practice of physicians and consulting surgeons to be the same. He considered the sum charged a very fair one, and below the average fee. Dr. Laing also considered it a fair charge. Mr. Parry said his client had paid 20 guineas into court, which was very handsome, for the demand was preposterous. It was at the rate of 4500*l.* per year, leaving out Sundays. The judge said it was a great difficulty to determine the equitableness of medical fees, as the railways had so disarranged them. Without any case being cited on either side, he was inclined to consider, from the evidence of the plaintiff, that the charge was a fair one, and below the market price. He therefore gave judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

By the *Explosion* at Warren Vale Colliery, near Rotherham (mentioned in our last number) fifty-two persons lost their lives instead of forty-three, as at first stated. The Coroner's inquest concluded its investigation on the 2nd inst. by returning the following verdict:—"We find that the fifty-two men and boys whose bodies we have viewed, were accidentally killed by an explosion of fire-damp in the Warren Vale Colliery, in the parish of Rawmarsh, in the county of York, in the occupation of Messrs. Charlesworth." The Jury added to their verdict these "remarks":—"Although there is not sufficient evidence for us to return a verdict of manslaughter against any particular person, we should ill discharge our duty if we did not accompany our verdict with an expression of our strong disapprobation of the loose manner in which the works appear to have been conducted at the above pit. We further regard the instructions hitherto given to the men as quite inadequate to the proper supervision and safe working of them; and it certainly does appear to us, that it is very desirable that there should be some stringent rules and regulations at every colliery for the better and safer working of the coal-mines; and further, that the proprietors of every mine ought to be held by the Legislature responsible for the efficiency of their agents and superintendents."

There was a serious *Collision* on the Great Western Railway very early on the morning of the 3rd inst. A goods-train, on its way to London, was detained at Chippenham for some time in the momentary expectation that the mail would arrive; but as the mail was very late, the station-master at length sent the goods-train forward. A quarter of an hour after, the mail-train came. As the interval between the two was thought quite safe, nothing was said about the goods-train; but a heavy fog had come on, the rails were slippery, the goods-train had made hardly any progress, and at length it had become almost stationary. The fog obscured the tail-lights on the goods-train, the mail overtook it, and dashed into it. The guard's break and a horse-box were crushed; but, fortunately, the guard perceived the danger in time to leap from his seat, and he escaped unhurt. The driver of the mail-train was dangerously wounded on the head; the passengers, however, escaped without serious injury.

A dreadful accident from the *Explosion of a Patent Spirit Lamp*, occurred on the 3rd inst. Two young gentlemen, named Edwards and Foster (the latter a

son of Sir William Foster of Norwich) law-students, resided at Highgate. They had dined together, and had a lamp on the table. Mr. Foster rose to supply the lamp with spirit; and just after he had done so, he was proceeding, candle in hand, to relight it, when a terrific explosion arrested his movements. On recovering a little from the shock, he beheld his friend, Mr. Edwards, enveloped in flames, the liquid having been scattered over his chest and entire person, and the saturated clothes having then ignited. Mr. Foster, who was himself fortunately unhurt, immediately rushed to his friend's assistance, and endeavoured with all his might to extinguish the flames. Not succeeding, he caught hold of his companion, and, by a desperate exertion of strength, almost carried him first down stairs, and then into a small garden at the back of the house, where by rolling him on the ground, he at length succeeded in extinguishing the flame; having, however, been himself sadly burnt through his generous efforts. Notwithstanding the prompt application of remedies, Mr. Edwards died ten days afterwards. Mr. Foster, however, is recovering. This accident shows how much caution should be exercised in the use of lights of this description.

There has been a fatal *Explosion of Fire-damp* at Norbury Hall Colliery, near Wigan. At a time when no danger was apprehended, a quantity of gas suddenly ignited, and sixteen miners were burnt. Nine were hurt so seriously that two of them have since died, and the state of others is precarious. As usual, the men worked with unprotected candles: they dislike safety-lamps, the light they give being so small that a considerable diminution of wages, it is said, would result from their use, the men being paid by piece-work.

A coroner's inquest has been held at Alnwick, on the body of Patrick Moreton, a young man who was killed by a *Railway Collision* on the 2nd ult. The following special verdict, returned on the 31st, explains the nature of the accident: "that the deceased Patrick Moreton met his death by a collision of two trains on the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway; and that the collision was owing to the neglect of the company's officers in charge of the first train to send back a fog or lamp signal to the train following, and further to the neglect of certain officers of the company to supply fog signals to the guard of the first train. We find the directors and managers of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway, guilty of great blame and culpable neglect—1.—In forwarding an enormous cattle-train immediately preceding a passenger train, which cattle-train passed Christon Bank when the passenger train was within one minute of being due; 2.—In appointing an unqualified guard to such a train; 3.—In appointing only one guard to a double train, 250 yards long. Also we find, that the production of the printed instructions by the superintendent, as a proof of the general carelessness of the company's management, appears to us only an attempt on the part of the company's managers to get rid of the responsibility resting on them, and to throw the blame on an unfortunate guard, while at the price of a few paltry tracts they get rid of the expense of providing a competent individual, whose sole duty ought to be to see, at least once daily, at some central station, that all parties in charge of a train are provided with proper signals."

A *Boiler Explosion*, attended with fatal consequences, occurred at Gold's Hill, near Dudley, on the 7th inst., on the premises of Messrs. Davies and Bloomer. The furnace-man named Evans, and his two assistants, were instantly killed; and a man named James, a shingler, afterwards died, without any outward appearances of injury. The cause of the accident has not been explained.

A *Snow Storm*, the severest that has occurred for half a century, has taken place in Scotland, and occasioned many fatal casualties. The whole country, from Inverness to Perth, was buried under a deep mass of snow, stopping the mails and interrupting all communication. The following are among the fatal accidents:—On the 16th inst., Mr. Menzies, of Strathbrann, came to Crick, to visit a son and transact business. The son remonstrated with his father against returning that day, in consequence of the severity

of the storm; but without effect. He set off for home, and his son accompanied him a mile above Glimmer-ton. As, however, he did not make his appearance at night, his family were alarmed, and next day a search was made for him. A bundle was found which was recognised as his. This made the parties persevere in their search; which they did all that day and the next, but with no success. On the following day they renewed their exertions, with a number of men and their dogs; and, after a considerable amount of labour, his body was discovered by a dog, in a deep wreath of snow, near the bridge of Newton.—At Killin, on the morning of the 16th, Alexander Cameron, shepherd to Mr. McNece, Glenlochy, was found dead. In attempting to drive his flock to a place of safety, he had fallen a victim to the storm. His faithful collies remained two days beside the dead body.—From fifty to sixty fine sheep, belonging to the dowager Duchess of Gordon, were smothered in the snow on the same night in a turnip field, on the farm of Tullich, in Morloch.

On the morning of Sunday, the 18th, two *Fires* broke out, involving much loss of property. The one was in the premises occupied by the old Woolwich Steam-packet Company, situated in Globe-lane, High-street, Woolwich. The fire commenced, from some unknown cause, in the engineers' workshops, in which property valued at some thousand pounds was deposited. The discovery was made by a police constable, who lost no time in sounding an alarm, and sending for assistance. In a very brief period two engines were taken to the spot from her Majesty's dockyard, and a plentiful supply of water having been procured, the two machines were soon in operation, but the fire still continued to progress, and at length assumed such a threatening aspect, that it was deemed advisable to send to London for additional assistance. The Southwark-bridge-road engine, another from Watling-street, and also that belonging to the West of England Insurance Company, from the Waterloo-road, were sent down with firemen, and at once went to the assistance of the local men, when the flames were shortly extinguished. The engineering workshops, together with their valuable contents, were all but destroyed.—The other fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Burek, a baker in Berwick-street, Soho, and was not subdued until the premises in which the disaster commenced were partly consumed, and some damage done to the next house, belonging to Messrs. P. Nardin and Peacock, egg merchants.

A vessel was nearly destroyed by fire in Yarmouth Roads, on Sunday morning, the 18th. A guardsman, while on duty at the end of the jetty, discovered flames issuing from the deck of a vessel (which proved afterwards to be the *Jane* and *Margaret*, a collier brig of Newcastle) riding about one mile distant from shore. He immediately raised an alarm; Captain F. A. Ellis, R.N., of the Coast Guard, and Lieutenant Eyton, were speedily on the spot, and under their directions the Emperor steam-tug steamed out of the harbour and proceeded to the assistance of the burning vessel, which by that time was completely enveloped in flames from the mainmast aft, including the mainsail, after-rigging, &c., and all chance of getting the fire under being lost, it was deemed the wisest course, having due regard both to life and property, to run the brig on shore, which was accordingly done. There were a large number of beachmen, and other parties assembled, and by the aid of the buckets, &c., it was not long before the fire was extinguished. The stern, bulwarks, sides, and after-decks, were, however, entirely consumed, as was also the lower part of the mainmast. The brig was in ballast, and only left London on the previous Thursday.

A remarkable instance of *Courage* has been shown by a tradesman in Lincolnshire. Mr. Smith, a baker at Whaplode, on entering his bakchouse on Saturday morning the 24th inst., found it on fire; it had been burning probably all night. The shelves were burnt, and two great beams above. Immediately over the room was a chamber occupied as a warehouse by Mr. Nurse, grocer, who resided in the adjoining house. This chamber, a very long one, was stored with drugs, oil, paper, &c., and a quantity of gunpowder. Mr. Nurse was immediately aroused from his slumbers, and made aware of the dreadful fact. He instantly proceeded

to the room and found the flames had already penetrated the floor in the far corner, close to an open raisin-box containing 23lb. of gunpowder: a quantity of apples around the box were thoroughly roasted, a knot in the box was exuding turpentine from the heat, a cask of oil in the same corner was leaking from the heat, and some hamper of straw were on fire. The courageous shop-keeper took up the box of gunpowder, which was already very hot, and conveyed it safely away. The fire was afterwards subdued.

Another accident, resulting from the *Incautious use of Naphtha*, occurred on the night of the 16th inst., to two persons, father and son, named Gooke, tailors, residing at 74, Wardour-street, Oxford-street. As they were engaged in charging a naphtha lamp, the spirit became suddenly ignited, and in their agitation the contents of the vessel were upset over their clothes, and they were instantly enveloped in flames. Screams of distress were heard to issue from the apartment, and in a moment the father rushed into the street, enveloped in fire. Many persons hastened to his assistance, and by the speedy application of shawls and sundry other articles of clothing, the flames were soon subdued. The poor man's clothes were entirely consumed, and his body was most dreadfully burnt. He was conveyed to the Middlesex Hospital, and has since died. The son, although much injured, is expected to recover.

An engineer, out of work in consequence of the strike, committed *suicide* on Sunday the 18th instant. As one of the Citizen steam-boats was proceeding up the river, several passengers perceived the body of a man lying in the mud off the Middlesex side of Vauxhall-bridge. Two watermen dragged the body on to the causeway, and a shell having been procured, it was taken to the dead-house of St. Margaret's workhouse, Dean-street, Westminster. The man was apparently about 29 years old. The police circulated notices round the district, and in a few hours a female identified the body as that of a man named John Leach, an engineer, lately in the employ of Messrs. Maudslay & Field, of Westminster-bridge-road, Lambeth. He had been missing since Friday from his home, and the female stated that he had been in a low state of mind since his dismissal on account of the strike.

On Saturday evening, the 24th inst., the great cotton mill belonging to Messrs. Thomas Ogden and Sons, Dickenson-street, Manchester, was *Destroyed by Fire*. The mill had closed, as is usual on Saturdays, at about three o'clock, and the workmen had left the premises. There was, however, a shafing in the third story, which had worked badly, and a mechanic employed at the mill was directed to remain after the other hands had left, and to see that this portion of the machinery was got into proper working order for Monday. The man appears to have worked till after five, when no longer able to see, he went into the street and asked a watchman to go and hold his lamp for a few minutes to light him whilst he completed his task. The watchman did so, but whilst he was assisting the mechanic to lift the shaft into its place he unfortunately dropped his lamp. The cotton in one of the spinning frames was ignited by this accident, the flames ran along rapidly from frame to frame, for it was an immense building, eight storeys high, full of frames and spindles; the men perceived almost in a moment that any efforts by themselves to stop the progress of the flames would be fruitless. They therefore raised an alarm, and the fire-engines being within half a mile from the mill were hastily sent for. This was at ten minutes to six o'clock, and, though not less than thirteen engines were almost immediately brought into operation, by half-past six the entire mill was on fire, extending 60 yards in length by 20 in breadth, and the flames were streaming forth from 160 windows at each front of the lofty pile, till they met and formed an immense single sheet of fire over the roof. The destruction of the mill was rapidly accomplished. Floor after floor gave way in quick succession, each falling through with its heavy masses of machinery; and the roof and large portions of the walls were also destroyed at the same time. In less than an hour all that was left of property worth more than 20,000*l.*, was a few shattered walls enclosing a huge heap of broken, disjointed, and blackened ironwork, mingled with masses

of bricks, charred wood, and smouldering cotton, the mere wreck of an establishment which had been amongst the wonders of the age for the collection of mechanism, and the results of ingenuity and skill brought together within its walls.

Mr. Cumming, a respectable surgeon at Matlock, and his son, a boy of 10 or 12 years old, have been *drowned* in the Derwent, while rowing in a pleasure boat on the river. The recent rains had swollen the stream, and the rowers seem to have approached too near to the weir near Masson Mill; the force of the current carried the boat over the fall, but Mr. Cumming and his son appeared to be uninjured by the descent, and the boat grounded at its foot. The unfortunate parent made the most desperate efforts to save his child, and repeatedly regained his feet after being drawn down by the current, but the power of the stream proved too great for long resistance, and the father and son were washed away to the depths below before the eyes of the anxious spectators. Mr. Cumming has left a wife and seven children.

The new *West India Steamship Amazon* was *Destroyed by Fire*, on Sunday Morning the 14th inst., with a dreadful sacrifice of human life. She sailed on her first voyage from Southampton on Friday the 2nd. At a quarter before one on Sunday morning, when the ship was about 110 miles W.S.W. of Scilly, a fire broke out suddenly, forward on the starboard side, between the steam chest and the under part of the galley, and shortly after the flames rushed up the gangway which is in front of the foremost funnel. The alarm bell was rung, and Captain Symons rushed on deck in his shirt and trousers. Wet swabs and other loose things were placed on the gratings of the spar-deck hatch, and a hose was brought to play on the main deck, but quickly abandoned in consequence of the excessive heat. The deck pump was also kept at work until the men were forced to retire. The wind was blowing half a gale from south-west, and the vessel was going 8½ knots, which was her average rate from the time of departure. Capt. Symons ordered some hay, between the engine-room crank gratings, to be thrown overboard; two trusses were hoisted over the ship's side, but the fire soon igniting the main body, the heneoops on each side, and the paddle-boxes, the men were obliged to abandon the deck, and those who could leave were all finally driven from the ship. Many were burnt in their berths, others suffocated, and a great number were drowned in the lowering of the boats.

The following narrative has been given by Mr. Vincent, midshipman of the *Amazon*:—"About 20 minutes to 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, fire was observed bursting through the hatchway-fore-side of the fore-funnel. Every possible exertion was made to put out the fire, but all was ineffectual. The mail-boat was lowered, with twenty or twenty-five persons in it; but was immediately swamped, and went astern, the people clinging to one another. They were all lost. The pinnace was next lowered but she hung by the fore tackle; and being swamped the people were all washed out of her. In lowering the second cutter, the sea raised her and unhooked the fore-tackle, so that she fell down perpendicularly; and all but two of the persons in her were washed out. Captain Symon was all this time using his utmost exertions to save his passengers and crew. Sixteen men, including two passengers, succeeded in lowering the life-boat; and about the same time 1, (Mr. Vincent,) with two men, the steward and a passenger, got into and lowered the dingy. In about half an hour the life-boat took the dingy's people into her, and bore down for the ship with the dingy in tow; but the sea increasing, and being nearly swamped, they were obliged to cast the dingy off and bring the boat-head to sea. The masts went—first the foremast, and then the mizenmast. About this time a bark passed astern of the life-boat: we hailed her with our united twenty-one voices, and thought she answered us; but she wore and stood under the stern of the burning vessel, and immediately hauled her wind and stood away again. The gig, with five hands, was at this time some little way from us; but the sea was running so high we could render her no assistance, and

shortly afterwards lost sight of her. About 4 a.m. (Sunday) it was raining heavily, and the wind shifted to the northward; sea confused, but decreasing; put the boat before the sea. At 5 o'clock the ship's magazine exploded, and about half an hour afterwards the funnels went over the sides, and she sunk. At noon we were picked up by the Marsden, of London, Captain Evans; by whom we were treated in the kindest manner possible." The conduct of Mr. Vincent, a very young man, has been highly praised. Mr. Neilson of Liverpool, one of the passengers saved in the life-boat, says in a narrative published in the newspapers: "I cannot close my narrative of this event without adverting in the strongest terms of praise and admiration to the conduct of young Vincent. Throughout the whole of the dreadful scenes through which we passed, he never showed the slightest symptom of fear or hesitation, or uttered a single murmur or complaint. His whole care seemed for the men, of whom he took the command with the calmness of an old officer, and having on him, as one of the officers of the watch when he escaped, the full complement of clothes, he gave his pea-jacket to one of the men who had only a shirt on, a flannel shirt to another, and his handkerchief to a third. I have been in scenes which have tried the nerves of hardened men, but never in any more calculated to try them than those through which this young officer passed unruined. I must speak also in the highest terms of the steadiness, firmness, and unwearied exertions of our boat's crew, who, notwithstanding the heavy sea and the crowded state of the boat, with 21 in her, were most eager to brave every danger for the chance of offering still further aid to their drowning comrades, while the possibility of a chance still remained."

The number of the ship's officers was ten, that of her engineers six, and that of her seamen ninety-six; the passengers were forty-nine. Of these, it was at first supposed that only the twenty-one persons who escaped with Mr. Vincent in the life-boat were saved; but a Dutch vessel afterwards landed at Brest six passengers and nineteen of the crew, whom she had picked up at sea; and another boat, with four passengers and nineteen of the crew, was picked up in the Bay of Biscay by a Dutch vessel and landed at Plymouth. The following are some of the details which have been given of this deplorable event. The boats of the *Amazon* were fitted with iron cranes or crutches on which their keels rested; these fittings obstructed their clearance from the ship, and but for this fatal arrangement the serious loss of life would have been lessened. Captain Symonds ordered that no one should get into the boats. This order was obeyed until the people saw the flames overpowering the ship. He was last seen with the man at the wheel, ordering the helm to be put up, so as to keep the ship before the wind. His last words were, "It is all over with her." The officer of the watch, Mr. Treweek (second officer), was walking the bridge when the accident was discovered. Mr. Henry Roberts, chief officer, in his shirt only, was actively assisting the captain; he was last seen going through the companion down to the main deck, and is supposed to have perished there. Mr. Lewis (third officer), Mr. Goodridge (fourth officer), and the two mid-shipmen, some of whose berths were forward on the port side of the main deck, were probably suffocated, as were also the chief engineer, Mr. George Angus, and Mr. Allen, the superintending engineer, on behalf of the constructor of the engines, as they were seen in the engine-room ten minutes before the fire broke out, going forward, there being no possibility of their return through the flames. The second engineer, Mr. William Angus, was on the spar deck, between the funnel and the crank gratings, pulling oars, and throwing them out of the way of the fire on the deck, near the boats. The two best boats were stowed on the top of the sponsons, where the flames prevented approach. After the *Amazon* was put about, she went at the rate of twelve or thirteen knots, dead before the wind. One boat on the starboard-side, the second cutter, was full of people, when the wash of the sea unhooked the foremost tackle; she held on by the stern-tackle, and her stern falling into the sea, all except two were drowned, in consequence of the ship's speed. The pinnace was observed on the port-side,

towing by the fore-tackle, behind the burning ship; and as no one cut the tow-rope, the miserable passengers, who were all huddled together, were one after the other washed into the sea. The mail-boat, which was also full of people, having shipped a quantity of water, went down alongside. When the flames had approached the after-companion, two male passengers came up from the saloon, all in flames, and running aft, fell on the deck. A tall lady entreated some one to take care of her child; but she would not enter either of the boats. Dineford, the quartermaster, placed one lady passenger in a boat; but she, being extremely agitated, got out again, and although Henry Williams and another used some force and begged her to go in, she persisted in remaining on board. The stewardess, Mrs. Scott, with her bonnet and shawl on, and something in her hand, first asked Steer to put her in the dingy, and then left for a larger boat. At the time of leaving, some of those who yet lived were kneeling on the deck praying to God for mercy; while others, almost in a state of nudity, were running about screaming with horror. The greatest part of the survivors escaped in the after-starboard second life-boat, in which was Mr. Neilson. One of her occupants (Maylin), in leaving, pressed his foot through the burning deck and injured it; two others (Williams and Passmore) had to climb the starboard paddle-box through the flames and smoke. They succeeded after three attempts, and then slid down hands and face over the paddle-box into the boat; several went down by the tackles. Two of the watch below (Williams and Foster) had their hair burnt while coming on deck. When the life-boat left there were sixteen on board; they heard some one shouting in the water, and threw over a keg and some oars. They endeavoured to approach, but a sea carried the boat off. They then took Mr. Vincent, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Sisley, and two sailors, from the dingy, and making her fast to the stern, towed after the burning wreck, thinking to save more lives; but the dingy having filled, they were obliged to cut her adrift, and, fearing that they themselves should be swamped, their boat's head was put to face the sea. Twelve oars were at work, the wind was increasing, and heavy squalls coming on. They saw the ship's gig full of people, shouting as if for assistance, and at the same time descried a sail standing apparently to the southward. The vessel appeared to pass between the two boats, and after this the gig was not seen; whether she was swamped or was taken up by the stranger is unknown. The strange vessel came pretty close under the life-boat's stern, when all shouted together, and thought they were answered on board: she was a barque, under close-reefed topsails, foresail, and fore-topmast staysail; her spauker was hanging in the brails as if she was in the act of wearing. Soon after her helm was put up, and she bore right down towards the wreck, behind which she disappeared. The masts of the steamer went over before four o'clock in the morning, the foremast on the port and the mainmast on the starboard side. One poor fellow appeared at the jib-boom end; the jib was cut loose, and was blowing away. Her mizenmast was still standing while she was in flames from stern to stern. About five o'clock, when the life-boat was passing the ship in a leewardly direction, the gunpowder in her two magazines aft exploded; and in about twenty minutes, the mizen having gone by the board, she made a heavy lurch and went down, her funnels being red hot and still standing.

The lost passengers are Messieurs De Pass and Delgado, Mr. Fellows, and Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Winton, Jamaica; Mr. Best and servant, Messieurs Callender and Stirling, and Mr. Alleyne, Barbadoes; Mr. Johnston, Mr. Burnett, and Mr. and Mrs. Scotland, Trinidad; Mr. Hick and Mr. and Mrs. McClinnow, Demerara; Mr. Eliot Warburton (the author of "The Crescent and the Cross"); Mr. Gerand, M. and Madame Lacombe and child; M. Kersaboe, and Mr. Dellemare, Chaguas; Mr. M. Del Rio, Margaret Fitzgerald, and M. Fevrier, Vera Cruz; Mr. Joel, Jamaica; Mr. Cumins, St. Thomas; Mr. Cardennas, Santa Martha; Mr. Anthony, and Mr. Hamilton, Jamaica; Mr. Ferreir, Grace Hoare, and Mr. Granier, Vera Cruz; Mr. Crevecoeur, St. Thomas; Mr. Le Fave, Guadeloupe. The superior officers of the ship who perished are William Symonds, comman-

der; Henry Roberts, chief officer; Charles H. Treweeke, second officer; John Lewis, third officer; George D. Goodridge, fourth officer; James W. Fullerton, surgeon; M. H. Strutt, purser; Francis Stainforth, midshipman; William K. Stuart, midshipman; Thomas Walter Shapcott, purser's assistant. The petty officers are George Angus, chief engineer; Debray Theophile, French cook; and three other cooks; and Joseph Kirby, the baker. The rest of those lost were seamen and firemen. The crew were picked men, and Captain Symonds was distinguished for his skill and cool intrepidity. The value of the Amazon when ready for sea was about 100,000*l*. The loss of that sum falls entirely upon the insurance-fund of the company,—a fund exclusively devoted from annual grants derived from the profits of the Company towards such casualties. The value of the specie, quicksilver, cargo, &c., when added to the value of the ship, will give a total loss of property of little less than 200,000*l*. sterling. The passengers rescued in the life-boat are Mr. Hawes, Vera Cruz; Mr. Neilson of Liverpool, bound for Demerara; Mr. T. Sisley, bound for Chaguas. The officers of the crew saved are Mr. Vincent, jun., midshipman; and Mr. James Williamson, the chief steward. The rest of the people saved are Mr. Dunsford, quarter-master, and fifteen seamen and firemen. The persons saved and landed at Brest are Mrs. Anna Maria Smith, Mrs. Eleanor Roper McClennan, and her infant, Mr. Bernardo Barriocorn, Mr. Frederick Glennie, Mr. John Stryburn, and Mr. William Evans. Among members of the crew now saved are Mr. William Stone, engineer; Mr. Jacob Allen (Messrs. Seaward and Capel's foreman,) George Deal and Alexander Laing, quartermasters, and Michael Gould, second steward. The circumstances connected with Mrs. McClennan's escape are most interesting. Upon the alarm being given she wrapped her infant in a shawl, and rushed upon deck; she was put into a boat without any garments but her night clothes. Into this boat fifteen or twenty persons placed themselves, but being unable to free the stern tackle, the bow went almost perpendicularly down; some fell into the sea, others scrambled up into the ship again. Mrs. McClennan was partly thrown into the sea, but her strong maternal feelings enabled her to save both herself and the child. She clung with her arm to one of the seats of the boat that was fast, and holding the child with the other, remained in a nearly vertical position for half an hour. Just when she became aware that she could not hold on much longer, the two engineers and others—the last to leave the ship—rushed to the boat, freed it from the tackle, and jumped into the boat before it could get away. Mrs. McClennan was very much bruised, and in this trying situation remained seventeen hours, almost the whole time up to her waist in water, from the sea breaking over the boat, without food and without clothes. Even the infant's shawl they were obliged to make a sail of, in order to keep the boat before the wind. Seventeen hours after she escaped from her berth, she was lifted, almost insensible, but still clinging to her child, on board the vessel that rescued the party. Among the persons saved in the last boat were the Rev. Mr. Blood, Mr. Kilkelly, Lieutenant Grylls, R. N., and Senor Juan de Cima, passengers; and Mr. William Angus, the second engineer.

The directors of the Royal Mail Steam-packet Company commenced at Southampton, on the 8th, an investigation into the circumstances of the disaster. Mr. T. Baring, M.P., Chairman of the Company, presided; and Captain Corry, of the Royal Navy, attended from the Admiralty. All the surviving passengers and crew were examined at great length on several successive days. By some, the fire was ascribed to the friction of the "bearings" of the engines, which were new and did not yet work smoothly; but this supposition was contradicted by the evidence of Mr. William Angus, the second engineer. The fire, in his opinion, originated between the starboard fore boiler and the bulkhead. Judging from the glare of the flame when he first saw it, it commenced below, and caught the store-room as it rose. He could only conjecture that it must have been caused by spontaneous combustion. The painters and other mechanics at work, before starting, might have dropped down

their shavings, chips, dabs of paint, and other rubbish. He was quite certain that the fire commenced below the store-room; some sacks, which were placed outside of it by his order, helped the flame. When he saw the gleam of the fire first it was low down, and the store-room was not then on fire. He was quite certain of that, from his position. The turpentine was kept quite away from that part of the ship, and he had never seen any leakage of oil from the tanks. The "bearings" were not more heated than those of new engines usually were, and he was quite confident that it was from nothing of that kind that the fire originated.

Unsuccessful searches have been made for the boats not accounted for, which appear to have left the burning vessel. On the 17th, the Rev. Mr. Warburton, brother of Mr. Elliot Warburton, arrived at Plymouth from London, bringing despatches from the Lords of the Admiralty to the Commander in Chief at that port, Admiral Sir J. Ommanney, upon the receipt of which the Admiral issued orders for two steam vessels—the Sprightly, and the Avon, to proceed with all possible despatch to join the *Hecate*, in searching for any of the survivors of the *Amazon*. On the 21st the Sprightly and Avon returned to Devonport, having experienced much foul weather, but not succeeding in gaining any further information as to the *Amazon*, or of the survivors of her destruction. The *Hecate*, steam sloop, which was despatched to Brest by order of the Admiralty, also returned without bringing any intelligence respecting the missing passengers and crew. Portions of wreck, supposed to have belonged to the *Amazon*, have come ashore at Swaenpool, near Falmouth, at Bridport, and other places. A new inquiry into the loss of the *Amazon*, under the powers given to the Board of Trade by the navigation act of last session, has been commenced. The subscriptions for the benefit of the survivors exceed 6000*l.*, and it is expected that the whole sum wanted, 10,000*l.* will speedily be obtained.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

A *Christmas Feast to the Poor* of unparalleled magnitude was given on the 25th ult. at the Leicester Square Soup kitchen, through the agency of the committee, and by the benevolence of those persons by whom this charitable institution is supported. The yard was covered over with a beautiful marquee of colossal dimensions, which was brilliantly lit up. Tables, covered with white cloths, were laid for about 300 of the houseless and otherwise dinnerless poor. The rows of dishes laden with roast beef, or baked pie, potatoes, bread, and plum-pudding, and flanked by shining knives and forks, and jugs of porter, formed of themselves a striking picture; but when the guests took their seats, and with the strictest decorum, and in grateful silence, regaled themselves with the viands before them, the sight was most gratifying. The guests, having thus feasted during half an hour, and carrying away what they could not eat, departed by a door of egress at the bottom of the yard in the same orderly manner as they entered, and were succeeded in a few minutes by a relay, amounting to the same number, from the main entrance. In this manner, relay after relay were regaled, from half-past one until six o'clock in the evening. About 4,000 heads of families had provisions given to them, to eat at home with their wives and children; each had from 2½ to 3 lb. of roasted beef, 1 lb. of plum-pudding, a 2 lb. loaf, 2 oz. of tea or 3 oz. of coffee, half a pound of sugar, and a pint of porter. Estimating that the family of each of these recipients consisted of five persons, upwards of 20,000 mouths must thus have been filled with good cheer on Christmas Day. If to these we add the 2,500 single persons who relieved each other at the tables every half hour, we find that 22,500 poor people had enjoyed this bounteous feast.

The new regulations issued under the authority of the Board of Trade, in reference to the *Merchant Seamen's Fund*, came into operation on New Year's Day. Before the 8th of August, 1851, contributions to this fund were universal and compulsory; since that time they have

been made voluntary. The following are the principal regulations: Seamen engaged in the home trade are to contribute 8*s.* per annum. Seamen engaged in the foreign trade are to pay rateably on every voyage, and in proportion to its length: 1*s.* for every calendar month and any broken period exceeding twenty days; 6*d.* for any broken period not exceeding twenty days. Seamen serving during the same year, partly in the home and partly in the foreign trade, are to pay at least 8*s.* per annum. Masters are to pay double the amount of seamen.

A deputation from the National Public School Association waited on Lord John Russell on the 6th inst. at his official residence in Downing Street, to present the draught of *A Bill for Establishing Free Schools in England and Wales for Secular Education*, and to explain the views of the Association. Mr. Milner Gibson introduced the deputation, among whom were Mr. W. J. Fox, M.P., Mr. Bazley, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Heyland, as representing the Society of Friends in Manchester, the Reverend W. F. Walker, incumbent of St. James's, Oldham, the Reverend Dr. Davidson, Professor of Biblical Criticism in the Lancaster Independent College, Mr. E. Swayne of London, and Mr. J. A. Pieton of Liverpool. After listening to the statements and arguments of the deputation, Lord John Russell replied at considerable length; expressing his sense of the gratitude due to the Association for their efforts in the cause of education; saying, the proposed scheme required deep consideration on the part of Government before being adopted; that he hoped that they would go on with it, without, however, pledging himself to any particular course; though he thought that even failure in schemes of this kind was productive of much good.

Arrangements are now in progress, with the consent of the South-Eastern Railway, and at the request of the Astronomer Royal, for *Placing the Royal Observatory at Greenwich in connexion with the wires of the Electric Telegraph Company*; which will give facilities for instantaneous astronomical observation at one and the same time in all parts of the kingdom, and by means of the submarine telegraph with nearly all parts of the Continent. Two other advantages will also be obtained—those of ascertaining the difference in the longitude of places, and of regulating the national time by the uniform standard of Greenwich.

A discovery of *Iron-stone* has been made in Northamptonshire. It is of good quality, running through the county from north-west to south-east, over an extensive district. The fact has been known for some time, but it is now publicly announced because extended inquiries show that the discovery is really valuable: many persons connected with Staffordshire and the North have been examining quarries and exhibiting an anxiety to purchase estates.

An Agricultural Meeting was held at Longtown, in Cumberland, on the 12th, to hear Sir James Graham explain the steps he had taken towards promoting the *Cultivation of Flax*. Sir James went over the whole case in favour of flax-cultivation, with his characteristic mastery of details and cautious generalization. The result seemed to be, that farmers in Cumberland had even better chances of a profit on flax than farmers in Ireland, who have made the crop a staple produce of their country. After Sir James's explanations, Mr. Rome, of Carlisle, was introduced, to state that he would undertake to purchase next season to the extent of three hundred acres, at prices which in case of difference should be fixed by a referee, and which he felt no doubt would return a profit of 8*l.* or 7*l.* an acre. Favourable opinions were expressed; but the farmers resolved to deliberate awhile, and to meet and state determinations on the 2nd of February.

The Treasury have determined to abandon Mr. Peacock's *Acad* in reference to the purchase of the Brompton and Nunhead Cemeteries; so by this abandonment the operation of the Metropolitan Interments Act has, for all practical purposes, been suspended.

A convention for the establishment of *International Copyright between England and France* was ratified on the 8th instant. The following are its principal provi-

sions. The authors of works of literature or of art, to whom the laws of either of the two countries do now, or may hereafter, give the right of property or copyright, shall be entitled to exercise that right in the territories of the other country for the same term and to the same extent as the authors of works of the same nation if published in the other country would therein be entitled to exercise such right. The representatives and assigns of authors, &c., are to enjoy the same rights as the authors, &c., themselves. And the protection granted to original works is extended to translations. The author of any work published in either of the two countries who may choose to reserve the right of translating it, shall, until the expiration of five years from the date of the first publication of his translation, be entitled to protection from the publication in the other country of any translation of such work not authorised by him, if the original work shall have been registered and deposited in the one country within three months after its first publication in the other, and if the author has notified on the title-page of his work his intention to reserve the right of translating it, provided a part at least of the translation shall have appeared within a year after the registration and deposit, and the whole within three years after the date of the deposit. As to works published in parts, the right is to be reserved in the first part; but as to the period of five years for the exercise of the exclusive right, each part is to be treated as a separate work. All the foregoing stipulations are to be applicable to the representation of dramatic works, and the performance of musical compositions. Articles extracted from newspapers or periodicals of either country may be republished or translated in the newspapers or periodicals of the other, provided the source whence the same are taken be acknowledged, unless the authors thereof shall have notified in the journal or periodical that they forbid the republication. The importation into, and the sale in either of the two countries of piratical copies of works protected from piracy, are prohibited; and in the event of an infraction of the foregoing stipulations, the pirated works or articles shall be seized and destroyed, and the infringers shall be liable to the penalties prescribed for such offence committed in respect of a work or production of home origin. If the work be one that has first appeared in France, it must be registered at Stationers' hall, in London; if in the dominions of Her Majesty, then at the Bureau de la Librairie of the Minister of the Interior, at Paris. And with respect to the duties payable on importation, it is understood that all works published in France, of which any part may have been originally produced in the United Kingdom, shall be considered as works originally produced in the United Kingdom and republished in France, unless such original matter shall be equal at least in bulk to the part of the work originally produced in the United Kingdom.

— Boston, in the United States, is about to have the advantage of an *Alarm Electric Telegraph*, by means of which immediate notice of any fire can be given to all the fire-engine stations in the city. Forty-nine miles of wire have been stretched over the city and across an arm of the sea. There will be forty signal-boxes where an alarm can be given.

The following statistics have been published respecting *Coffee*. Coffee was originally grown in Abyssinia, and not introduced into Arabia until about the year 1450; from whence it was brought into this country about two centuries later by a Turkey merchant, named Edwards. From Arabia the cultivation of the plant spread into the various countries in which it is now grown; and in those countries the produce has now reached the enormous quantity of 476,000,000 pounds yearly. Of this quantity Brazil produces 176,000,000 pounds; Java, 124,000,000 pounds; Cuba and Porto Rico, 30,000,000 pounds; St. Domingo, 35,000,000 pounds; La Guayra, &c., 35,000,000 pounds; British West Indies, 8,000,000 pounds; Ceylon, 40,000,000 pounds; Malabar and Mysore, 5,000,000 pounds; French and Dutch West Indies, 2,000,000 pounds; Philippines, 3,000,000 pounds; Sumatra, 5,000,000 pounds; Celebes, 1,000,000 pounds; Costa Rica, 9,000,000 pounds; Arabia, 3,000,000 pounds; total, 476,000,000 pounds. Valued at 50s. per hundred-weight, and estimating the quantity which pays European

duty—threepence per pound—at 300,000,000 pounds, the Governments of Europe derive from coffee a revenue of 3,700,000*l.*, and the consumers pay nearly twenty millions sterling. The consumption in England in 1850 amounted to 31,226,840 pounds, or 1.33 pounds per head of the population—less than one-half the consumption of tea: the consumption of coffee in America is four times that of tea.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of St. Giles's in the Fields and St. George's Bloomsbury, on the subject of the *Metropolitan Intermment Act*, was held at the Store Street rooms on the 20th. It was convened by the parochial association in consequence of its having been stated by Lord John Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in answer to the deputation headed by the Bishop of London, that the Board of Health was not in a position to carry out the Metropolitan Intermment Act, by reason of its being unable to borrow a sufficient sum of money without applying to parliament for further powers. Mr. Moore proposed a resolution, "That the continuance of burials in the already overcrowded grave-yards of the metropolis was a source of great danger to the public health; and the Board of Health, being unable to carry into effect the act of parliament intended to remove the evil, it was the duty of the metropolitan parishes to secure the benefit of efficient and economical extramural interment, and to oppose the extortionate demands of incumbents in respect of burial fees as compensation for the same." Mr. J. Rogers seconded the resolution, which was supported by several gentlemen interested in sanitary measures, and was ultimately agreed to. Mr. Fowler then entered into a long statement of the plan proposed by the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company, and a resolution was passed to the effect that the meeting considered the proposed plan highly deserving the support of these and all the metropolitan parishes.

The sixty-third annual meeting of the subscribers to the *City Dispensary* was held on the 21st at the board room of the institution. It appeared from the report that during the past year 9648 patients had been cured or relieved, 54 died, 32 discharged for irregularity, and 1059 remained under treatment, making a total of 10,784 poor persons who had received medical aid from the institution during the past year; and since the year 1789 the number of 316,227 patients had been cured or relieved, and upwards of 90,000 visits paid to patients at their own houses. The committee, in their report, expressed their belief that much of the improved state of the public health of the metropolis is owing to the facility afforded by dispensaries of checking incipient sickness.

A return just published prepared from official documents, shows the rapid *Progress of the Port of Bristol*. It appears that the increase on the customs' revenue for the year ending 5th January, 1852, over that for the previous year, amounts to 48,804*l.*, which is equal to one-third of the total general average of the customs' revenue for the same period. The increase of direct importation for the year is 62,241*l.*, and the tonnage return of shipping shows a remarkable increase. The following is the return:—Bristol customs' revenue for the years ending 5th January, 1851-1852:—1850-1, direct importation, 883,116*l.*; indirect (or brought coastwise under bond), 218,775*l.*; total, 1,051,891*l.* 1851-2, direct importation, 895,357*l.*; indirect, 295,338*l.*; total 1,100,695*l.* This gives the increase as above 48,804*l.* The total increase of the general customs' revenue amounts for the year to 146,180*l.* The increase upon shipping with foreign cargoes of 1851 over the return for 1850 was 2329 tons; while the increase upon the tonnage of vessels with cargoes to foreign ports, was for the same period, 11,877 tons. This return is considered highly satisfactory, the improvement of the port having for some years been progressing.

The *Commissioners for the Sale of Encumbered Estates in Ireland* sat on the 24th instant for the disposal of five properties. The attendance of speculators was very numerous, and the competition for the different lots unusually brisk. An estate in Roscommon, yielding a yearly rental of 474*l.* subject to an annuity of 70*l.*, realised 4375*l.* The Cavan estates of Mr. H. Martyn

produced 2,290*l.* on a profit rental of 200*l.* per annum. The extensive estates of Mr. J. Colpoys Bloomfield, lying in the county of Tipperary, were disposed of in three lots, the gross annual value of which was estimated at 904*l.*, and which sold together for 12,350*l.* The Galway estates of Mr. Blake Foster, valued by the Court's own valuator at 960*l.* per annum, 450*l.* of which was apportioned to jointures chargeable upon the property, produced 6,130*l.* A small estate in Donegal, with a rental of 155*l.*, charged with two annuities of 30*l.* each, brought the sum of 1350*l.* The gross amount of the day's sale was 26,495*l.*

The following authentic *Railway Statistics* show the progress of railway communication, the amount of capital expended, and the rate of profits, for the last ten years:—At the end of the year 1845, the length of railway opened in the United Kingdom was 2023 miles. The total expenditure on railways at that date was 71,647,000*l.*—about 35,070*l.* per mile; and the gross traffic receipts from the railways for that year were 6,669,230*l.*—about 3469*l.* per mile per annum. At the end of the year 1851, the length of railway opened in the United Kingdom had increased to 6928 miles. The total expenditure on railways had swelled to 236,811,420*l.*—about 35,058*l.* per mile; and the gross receipts of the year were 14,987,310*l.*—not more than 2281*l.* per mile per annum. In 1842, the average cost per mile of the railways in existence had been 34,690*l.*; in 1845 it had been 35,070*l.*; in 1848 it had been 34,234*l.*; and in 1851 it was again 35,058*l.* So that the practical cost per mile had increased, instead of diminished with the cost of material and the increase of skill. The gross traffic receipts per mile since 1842 have been—In 1842, 3113*l.*, or 8·29*l.* per cent. on the capital then expended; in '43, 3083*l.*, or 8·82*l.* per cent. on the capital; in '44, 3278*l.*, or 8·84*l.* per cent.; in '45, 3469*l.*, or 9·30*l.* per cent.; in '46, 3305*l.*, or 9·25*l.* per cent.; in '47, 2870*l.*, or 8·20*l.* per cent.; in '48, 2556*l.*, or 6·78*l.* per cent.; in '49, 2302*l.*, or 6·13*l.* per cent.; in '50, 2227*l.*, or 5·80*l.* per cent.; in '51, 2281*l.*, or 6·35*l.* per cent. Therefore the increased receipts fell behind their due proportion to the increased length opened, every year since 1842 down to 1850; and only last year, when the increased length opened fell below the increased length opened in the preceding year by more than half (from about 590 additional miles to about 240 additional miles), showed signs of a healthy reaction.

The numerous body of workmen, consisting of mechanics, millwrights, and engineers, principally employed in the construction of machinery, have entered into an *Extensive Combination*, the objects of which have been set forth in an address, purporting to be from "the members of the Amalgamated society of Engineers, Machinists, &c., to their Employers." In that address, the workmen are represented as demanding that, for the future, no men shall work overtime, except in cases of accident, and then to be paid double wages; and that piece-work shall be entirely discontinued. A notice was also given to Messrs. Hibbert, Platt & Sons, of Oldham, that the workmen in their large establishment would leave their employment on the 31st of December, unless certain demands were complied with. In consequence of these proceedings, an announcement appeared in the newspapers, signed by the partners in thirty-four of the leading engineering and machine-making firms of Manchester, stating that the Amalgamated society of Engineers, Machinists, Millwrights, Smiths, and Pattern-makers, had made demands upon several firms in the Manchester district, which were totally inconsistent with the rights of the employers of labour, and that the same body had given further notice, that unless their demands were at once conceded, the workmen would strike on the 31st instant. Under these circumstances, the advertisers gave notice, that if the threatened turn-out should be made in any one of their workshops on the 31st, or on any subsequent day, the whole of them would close their establishments altogether, as a purely defensive step against the interference and dictation of a small but mischievous class of agitators, who were trying to force the well-disposed workmen into opposition with their employers. The thirty-four firms signing the advertisement include all

the eminent firms in the Manchester district; they employ directly in their own shops 10,000 hands; and the multitude of small subsidiary firms who supply them with particular portions of machinery exclusively, will swell the number of hands who depend on them to 30,000. On the 24th of December a numerous meeting of masters engaged in practical engineering, machine-making, &c., was held at the London Coffee-house, Mr. Field, of the firm of Maudslay & Co., being in the chair. Resolutions were passed expressive of the determination of the masters promptly and peremptorily to resist the threats of dictation conveyed in the manifesto of the Amalgamated society, and the first steps were taken for forming a Central Association of Employers of Operative Engineers, for the purpose of carrying those resolutions into effect. On Tuesday evening the 30th of December, the "Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c.," held a crowded meeting in the Hall of Commerce, Threadneedle Street, called by public advertisement "to discuss the present state of the iron-trades, and the position of the society in relation thereto;" or, as was indicated in another handbill, publicly to contradict certain assertions put forward by the employers, and set the society right with the public. Mr. Musto, chairman of the Executive Committee, presided, and Mr. Newton gave explanations respecting the society. He said that the society had been represented as insisting—(1) upon the abolition of systematic "overtime," and (2) the discontinuance of "piece-work;" (3) with claiming that the masters should discharge the class of persons engaged in, and long trained to the working of self-acting machines, and employ in their stead mechanics, members of the union; and further (4) with advocating an equalisation of the rate of wages. Now, the first two of these propositions were the propositions of the society. The third was never made by them, and the intention attributed to them of equalising wages was as foreign to their objects and general opinions as anything could be. (Hear.) They disavowed all intention of removing any persons at present in employment (hear, hear); there was nothing in the present proceedings of the council that expressed or implied any such intention; they had never asked for the removal of a man from a machine, who was working at it, who had earned a title to work at it by the time he had been employed at it; and so far from the opinions of their members being against those men, they had fostered and encouraged them. He further denied that the men contemplated any strike on the 1st of January. The following resolutions were then moved and adopted:—

"That having heard the statement made upon the part of the council of the Amalgamated society, this meeting is perfectly satisfied that the acts and intentions of the council have been publicly misrepresented, and that it has never demanded of the employers either discontinuance of the use of machinery of any kind, or the discharge of the workmen employed at machines."

"That this meeting is fully convinced that neither the Executive Council nor the members of the Amalgamated society of Engineers, &c., contemplated a strike on the 1st of January, 1852; and that the assertions put forward to that effect are entirely untrue."

"The Executive Council have decided to advise the trade generally to discontinue the practice of systematic overtime and piece-work after the 31st December, 1851, and in those cases where overtime is really necessary, in cases of break-downs or other accidents, all time so worked over to be charged and paid for at the rate of double time."

The Lancashire Employers of Operative Engineers, &c., had a meeting at Manchester on the same day (the 30th of December), when they decided on joining and becoming a portion of the Central Association in London. The meeting was attended by the representatives of more than fifty firms, and presided over by Mr. T. B. Sharp, of the firm of Sharp Brothers and Co., Manchester. The meeting appeared to be unanimous in their determination to resist every attempt at dictation on the part of the men as alike injurious to employer and employed.

At another meeting, held on the 2nd instant, the Manchester employers resolved to give notice of closing their workshops on Saturday, the 10th, unless in the meantime the demands of the men were withdrawn.—In consequence, accordingly, of the determinations adopted by the employers, a number of the principal

workshops in London, giving employment to above 3000 hands, were closed on the 10th; and a number of workshops in Manchester were closed on the same day.

On the night of the 10th, a meeting of the Executive Council of the "Amalgamated Society" was held, when the council resolved to submit the following resolutions to the members, requesting that branch meetings might be called as soon as possible to take them into consideration:—

"1. That 10,000*l.* of the funds of the Amalgamated Society shall be paid over to such number of trustees (the trustees to be men in whom public confidence would be placed in consequence of their position in society), not less than six, as are selected by the executive, on trust, to advance the same from time to time to managers appointed by the executive, whose appointments will be afterwards confirmed by the society, for the purpose of carrying on the business of engineers, machinists, &c.

"2. These advances, as well as those which the trustees may obtain from other sources, shall be secured by a mortgage of all the plant and stock in trade employed in such business to the said trustees, who shall have a power to give preference security to any other advances over sums advanced out of the funds of the Amalgamated Society.

"3. The conditions of work under which such business is carried on shall be such as are approved of by the executive of the Amalgamated Society from time to time, with the view of giving employment to the greatest possible number of members of the trade out of employment for the time being, consistently with the stability of the business and the welfare of the workmen employed."

An interesting letter, on the differences between the engineer workmen and their masters, by Lord Cranworth, has appeared in the "Times." Lord Ashburton had been asked to be an arbiter between the men and their masters: on receiving a second letter of invitation, he hastened to London to consult Lord Cranworth, whom he was told "the operatives desired to place at the head of a council of arbitration for the decision of the questions now unfortunately at issue." The result was a letter addressed to Lord Ashburton. Its substance is contained in the following passages:—

"I feel most deeply for the men; for I believe in my conscience that many, perhaps all, not only are most fully persuaded they are in the right, but they would scent the notion of offering or encouraging those who should offer violence either to master or man. But, however pure and peaceable may be their intentions, I know from experience what is the unavoidable result. It has been my painful duty to try and punish for outrages such as I have alluded to, many men who, I have no doubt, when they entered into these trade combinations, would have been indignant with any one who should have suggested that what they were engaging in could ever lead to a violation of the law. So, however, it invariably is, I cannot wonder that the masters refuse to agree to any arbitration that is to impose on them any restriction whatever as to the terms on which they are to contract with their men. No one ought to presume to define such terms, any more than to bind the men as to the terms which they ought to submit to in favour of their masters. The obvious duty and interest of the men is to treat the matter as a mere question of bargain. If once they do that,—if once they allow that the master is at liberty to propose his own terms, and the workman to accept or reject them,—I should think the masters would—I am sure they ought—to be quite ready to listen to any suggestions of the men, as to any modifications of the system which should be more agreeable to them, without infringing on the free agency of their employers. I fear, from what has passed, that there is too much heat now to expect that any temperate advice will be attended to. Sure I am that a time will come when the workmen will deeply regret the steps they have taken, if they really are endeavouring by combination to deprive the masters of their natural right of managing their own business in their own way. I deeply feel for the men, and I should have been very glad if we could have seen our way to suggest any sort of arbitration which could solve the difficulty; but I really cannot.

"I recollect you said the men think there ought to be some tribunal which should decide this question between them and their employers, and that such is the case in France. I cannot say what may be the state of the law there, but I can hardly think it possible that there can be a law regulating what contract a master shall enter into with his men: that is not a fit subject for a tribunal or an arbitration, and for this obvious reason—the master, after the decision given, has only to say, 'I will not enter into such a contract,' no one can force him to do so. When, indeed, the employer is not a free agent, not therefore an equal with the employer,—as, for instance, a child or a woman—there we know the Legislature has reasonably enough interfered; but I should be sorry indeed to think that the adult workmen of this country should claim protection on any such ground as that which has led to the legislative protection of women and children in their dealings with their employers. I wish I could have written more satisfactorily. I promised you to make any suggestions which might occur to

me, but in truth I can think of none. I only heartily hope that the men will not take a step so very injurious to themselves as that which the aspect of affairs seems to threaten.

This letter has been extensively printed, placarded, and distributed by the Manchester employers.

The Amalgamated society, on the other hand, have published the following letter, addressed to the Executive of the society, by Viscount Goderich, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Vansittart, dated the 17th inst. :—

"Gentlemen,—Lord Cranworth's letter to Lord Ashburton, published in the 'Times' of to-day, may do you cause some harm, as it is grounded on a misapprehension of the facts of the case.

"As we were the persons whom you trusted to lay the question of arbitration before Lord Ashburton and Cranworth, it was our duty to take care that they understood clearly the points at issue and what you really did ask.

"Now, Lord Cranworth says, 'The men insist that the masters shall not employ unskilled labourers.' We can only say, that when we made the application to Lord Ashburton we knew perfectly well that you made no such demand as this.

"Again, we knew perfectly well that you did not ask for a law compelling masters and men to submit to any arbitration whatsoever. What you did ask for was, the formation of such a board as exists in France, under the title of *Conseil de Prud'hommes*, to which any masters and men who choose to submit voluntarily to its jurisdiction, and bind themselves to abide by its decisions, can refer all disputes between them; and you told us you felt sure that all masters and men who wished for fair play and nothing more would be glad to submit voluntarily to such a tribunal as this.

"As your case, through our means, has been put on false merits before the public, we think that you are entitled to this statement from us, and shall leave it with you to make what use you please of it."

In the meantime, the position of the contending parties remains unaltered. The men connected with some of the London branches received their first week's strike allowance on Monday, the 19th, and the remaining branches on Tuesday.

On Sunday night, the 18th, a crowded meeting of the workmen connected with the iron trades took place at the Phoenix tavern, Stepney; the object being mainly to hear a report from Mr. Newton upon the state of the movement in Lancashire. He described the all-engrossing subject of attention to be the co-operative shop in Lancashire, which he assured them would be capable of employing 1000 men. His visit, altogether, according to his account, was most satisfactory, the men being animated by the utmost enthusiasm, and expressing the most perfect confidence in the Amalgamated society.

On Monday, the 19th, a meeting of the non-society men and unskilled labourers was held at the People's Institute, Heyrod-street, Manchester, to consider the propriety of an appeal to the public on their own behalf. In the course of the proceedings, the Amalgamated society was severely reflected upon for having forced the masters to take the steps they did, and thus caused so much distress among their fellow-workmen who were non-society men. The meeting ultimately nominated a committee to collect funds and distribute them among the non-society men.

The masters have issued a document explanatory and defensive of their conduct, in which they say, "All we want is to be let alone. With less than that we shall not be satisfied. Until we accomplish that, we shall not re-open our establishments. With every respect for noble and distinguished referees, whose arbitration has been tendered to us, and with no reason to doubt that their award would be honest, intelligent, and satisfactory, we must take leave to say that we alone are the competent judges of our own business; that we are respectively the masters of our own establishments; and that it is our firm determination to remain so. To this principle we recognise no exceptions."

The principal ironfounders of Glasgow have made a great improvement in the *Manner of Paying their Workmen*. Instead of Saturday evening, they are now paid on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock; and the effect has more than realised the expectations of the humane masters. The workmen return after dinner almost in every instance, leaving their wages behind them with their families, who have now leisure and daylight to seek the cheapest markets, and spend the money to the best advantage.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

On New Year's Day, by the Queen's order and in her Majesty's presence, there was a liberal distribution of food and fuel to upwards of five hundred poor people of good character.

Prince Albert has intimated to the Government School of Mines the intention of the Prince of Wales to grant two annual exhibitions, (to be named the "Duke of Cornwall's Exhibitions,") the amount of each being sufficient to defray the expenses of the course of instruction at that institution.

Lady Augusta Gordon Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond, and married to Prince William of Saxe-Weimar, has been created Countess of Dornburg, by the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar.

Major-General the Hon. George Cathcart is appointed Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, in the room of Sir Harry Smith.

The Hon. Richard Bingham, now Secretary of Legation at Turin, has been appointed to that post at Lisbon, and the Hon. E. M. Erskine, now Paid Attaché to the Legation at Brussels, has been appointed Secretary of Legation at Turin.

Lord Normanby, the British Ambassador to France, has arrived in London.

M. Thiers arrived in London on the 12th inst. His mother has just died at the Batignolles in Paris, where she has long resided on a pension from her son.

Madame Schroeder-Devrient, now Baroness von Boek, the celebrated prima donna of the Dresden opera, who was charged with being implicated in the last insurrection in that city, has been pardoned by the King of Saxony, on condition of her paying the costs of the proceedings commenced against her.

M. Eugène Sue has left Paris for the Lake of Geneva, where he will continue his literary labours. MM. Victor Hugo and Alexander Dumas have written to their friends to say that should they be expelled from Belgium they will reside at Homburg.

A few days ago, the Duke of Wellington being on a visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle, took a stroll through the streets of Windsor, intending to visit the Sheet-street barracks, where the 2nd battalion of Grenadier Guards are quartered, his grace being colonel of that regiment. Mr. Cantrell, an old English farmer, who had recently come to reside in the town, having retired in comfortable circumstances, was also taking a stroll, and seeing the Duke making inquiries as a

stranger, went up to him and politely gave "the old gentleman" his arm, offering to conduct him whither he wished to go, and the duke and the old English farmer walked through the streets arm in arm together to the barracks engaged in cheerful conversation.

The King of Prussia has conferred the order of Merit upon Professor Richard Owen, of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, in consideration of the eminent services rendered by that gentleman to natural science.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

ADMIRAL GEORGE BAKER, on the reserved list, died on the 25th ult., at Spring View, Isle of Wight, in the 92nd year of his age.

BARON KEMÉNY, who was appointed by Kossuth as Chief to the Hungarian Committee in this country, died suddenly on the 5th inst., at his residence in Foley Place, while the secretary to the committee was reading to him a letter in a daily paper, concerning the Hungarian refugees. He was 63 years of age, and was one of the most celebrated officers during the Hungarian war of independence.

CHIEF-JUSTICE CHUMMAN, of New Brunswick, died lately, having fully filled the highest post in the judiciary of his province for many years. He was possessed of immense wealth, and left by his will 4000*l.* to St. John's Church, 10,000*l.* to the Diocesan Church Society, and 4000*l.* to the Madras School.

THE HON. JOEL R. ROUSSETT, formerly Secretary of War in the United States, under the Presidency of Mr. Van Buren, and at an earlier period Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico during the administration of Mr. John Quincy Adams, died in Statesburg, South Carolina, on the 12th ult., at the age of 73.

GENERAL SIR FREDERICK PHILIPUS ROBINSON, G.C.B., Colonel of the 39th regiment, died at Brighton on the 1st inst., in his 88th year. He was the oldest soldier in the British army, having been within a month of seventy-five years in the service.

SIR DAVID BAIRD, of Newbyth, in Berwickshire, died on the 9th inst., in consequence of an accident while hunting. He was in his 57th year.

MR. T. HUDSON TURNER, one of the ablest of British archaeologists, died of consumption on the 14th inst., at the age of 37.

ADMIRAL GEORGE M'KINLEY died very suddenly on the 18th inst., at his residence, Angelsea, Gosport, aged 85. He was the oldest officer in the navy excepting one, having entered the service in 1773.

MR. SERGEANT HEATH died at his residence in Montague Place, Russell Square, on the 21st inst., in the 74th year of his age.

MR. G. H. RODWELL, the composer, died on the 22nd inst., after suffering acutely for some months from rheumatic gout. Mr. Rodwell, who was well known in the musical world for his many song and ballad compositions, was also a dramatic and literary writer.

INSELL WILLIAM CLEMENT, Esq., proprietor of the Observer and Bell's Life in London, Newspapers, died suddenly on the 21st instant, aged 72.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE news from India is of a warlike aspect. An expedition set out from Calcutta on the 19th of Nov., to enforce reparation from the Burmese of some grievances which have not been clearly explained. The force consisted of her Majesty's ships Fox (12), Serpent (12), and the Company's war-steamer Tenasserim and Proserpine, all under the command of Commodore Lambert, of the Queen's service. The first efforts to obtain reparation (it is stated) will probably be made at Rangoon; and should our demands not be instantly complied with, that place will be held in pledge till they are satisfied.

At Bombay, there had been a renewed outbreak of the religious feud between the Mahometans and the Parsees. There were serious riots on the 22nd and 23rd November, and the military were again called into action. A Parsee was killed in the riots. Since the commotion, 100 soldiers had been quartered in Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebroy's meeting-house, to protect it. Sir Erskine Perry, Mr. Lumsden, and other European gentlemen, had mediated between the principal men of the Parsees and Mahometans, and peace was at length restored.

It is now stated that "the Nizam has not after all paid the remainder of his debt to our Government." Part of what he handed over to us was jewels, which he estimated at 250,000*l.*; but on the jewels being put up for sale, the highest bid made for them did not exceed half that sum; so the jewels were returned.

Some undescribed cause of military movements has occurred in Upper Scinde. It is said that our former ally, Meer Ali Moorad, has been detected forging documents of title to some of the land he claims to hold. Troops are in movement, perhaps to depose him altogether.

On the 7th of September, a small vessel, the Dolphin of Singapore, while on a trading voyage to the north-east coast of Borneo, was *Captured by Pirates*. Mr. Robertson, the master, Mr. Burns, the super-cargo, and several of the Malay crew, were murdered with spears and krisses, and a native woman on board was nearly cut in two and thrown into the sea. The vessel was carried into the Penguin River, but was afterwards given up by the native chief to Mr. Hodge of the Pluto.

Advices from Jamaica have been received to the 2d inst. They announce the increased prevalence of the cholera in different parts of the island. At Savannah-la-Mar it was raging to a fearful extent. In the parish of Hanover it was committing serious ravages. The Christmas holidays in Trelawny were made gloomy by the fear of a renewed attack of the pestilence.

The intelligence from the Cape of Good Hope is still of a painful kind. A body of Caffres and Hottentots having occupied some fastnesses in the Waterkloof, General Somerset, on the 6th ult., moved his division

for the purpose of expelling them. The troops advanced in three columns, under General Somerset and Lieut.-Colonels Fordyce, of the 74th, and Michel, of the 6th Regiment. Colonel Fordyce's brigade was first engaged. A body of the enemy was found posted in a very strong position, behind the rocks at the head of the Waterloof ravine. From this position a deadly fire was opened upon the troops as they advanced, and with disastrous effect. Colonel Fordyce and several men of the 74th Regiment were struck down by the first volley. This brave and intelligent officer was idolised by the troops under his command, and had gained the esteem and confidence of the colonists in a remarkable degree during the last few months of service on the frontier. He died on the field a few minutes after receiving the wound, his last words being "Take care of my regiment!" The enemy was afterwards partially driven from his position; but, unfortunately, not without several more casualties among the troops. Lieut. Carey, of the 74th, two sergeants, and two rank and file, were killed, and Lieut. Gordon (since dead), and eight men—all of the 74th Regiment—wounded. The following day the operations were resumed, and the enemy was driven from various positions in the ravines and dense forests, with considerable loss. On our side, one officer, Captain Devenish, of the Beaufort West Levy, was mortally wounded; three men of the 91st, and four of the levies were also wounded. On the 8th, the weather proving extremely inclement, Major-General Somerset withdrew his troops to the camp in the Blinkwater. It was understood that no further movements against the enemy in that quarter were contemplated at present. Marauding parties continue to infest the frontier districts, and to commit depredations on the few remaining flocks and herds of the farmers. Several skirmishes have taken place between these plunderers and small parties of the colonists, with some loss of life on both sides—the enemy, however, suffering the most severely. The Orange River Sovereignty, at the last accounts (Nov. 17), was still in a very unsettled state. Open hostilities, however, had not been recommenced.

The draft ordinances, embodying the new colonial constitution, arrived on the 31st of October; they were subsequently forwarded to King William's Town for the Governor's perusal, and, when returned by him, were published, on the 27th of November, in the "Government Gazette." On the 28th of November they were read a first time in the Council, and their second reading was postponed for two months. The constitution embodied in these ordinances had given great satisfaction to the colonists, and this uncalled-for and unexpected postponement had caused extreme indignation.

The latest accounts from *Australia* announce great discoveries of gold at Port Phillip. Deposits had been met with at Buninyong, about eighty miles from Melbourne, and fifty from Geelong, apparently far exceeding in value any that have yet been found within a similar space either at Sydney or in California. The whole population were moving towards the district, and it had already been ascertained that the creeks and rivers for many surrounding miles were likewise rich. The great production, however, had been at one particular spot of limited extent, where the supply was such that the space of eight square feet to each man was considered by the Government Commissioner a sufficient allotment. The number of persons already at the place was upwards of 2000, and careful calculation seemed to show that the average to each man was at least an ounce a day. Many cases of individual success were most remarkable. One man had obtained 1500*l.* in a week; and another, a blacksmith, had got 1000*l.* A party of three men found twenty pounds weight in one day, while another before breakfast raised thirteen pounds weight, the consequence was a far greater desertion from all ordinary occupations than had been witnessed at Sydney. Hundreds of all classes were finding daily, including labourers, mechanics, clerks, shopkeepers, merchants, and professional men.

The parliament of the *Ionian Islands* was dissolved on the 20th of December, by decree of her Majesty

and the Lord High Commissioner issued a proclamation, explaining that the object of the dissolution of parliament is a modification of the existing Ionian constitution; and setting forth the conditions on which that modification is vouchsafed, with details of the concessions. The modifications proposed are—1. The substitution of an annual for a biennial session, in order to put an end to the dissensions between the Senate and the Assembly concerning the constitutional right of the Senate to make regulations having the force of law during the recess with the consent of the Lord High Commissioner. 2. The modification of those articles which regulate the present organisation of the Senate, in order to increase the responsibility of its members, and to regulate its duties. 3. The addition of a fifth judge to the Supreme Council of Justice, in order to enable that body to decide all cases by an absolute majority, instead of by the casting-vote of the President of the Senate and the Lord High Commissioner. 4. The permission to introduce a bill for the better regulation of the powers of the local government. 5. The substitution of powers defined by an Act of Parliament for those now exercised under the name of the high police, in virtue of Article 4, Section 2, Chapter 7 of the Constitution; which the Lord High Commissioner will recommend her Majesty to abrogate, provided the Ionian Parliament be disposed to join with him in the adoption of measures "which the experience of the last two years has proved to be indispensable."

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

The twenty-third detachment of colonists sent to New Zealand by the *Canterbury Association* (since October 1850) departed from Gravesend on the 4th inst., in the ship *Stag*; a fine vessel of between 600 and 700 tons burden, built by Mr. Green for the India passenger trade. The detachment consisted of about 120 cabin-passengers and labourers.

A number of ladies and gentlemen, intending to proceed shortly as colonists to the *Canterbury Settlement* in New Zealand, assembled at the rooms of the society in the Adelphi, on the 31st of December. Mr. Self stated that the latest advices, extending to the 1st of September, show a steady and hopeful progress at the settlement. Lord Lyttelton referred to the near approach of the time when Parliament will again have legislate on the affairs of New Zealand. The Society, he said, will exert itself to secure legislation which shall as much as possible throw the weight of government upon the local management on the spot. He presumed the Government plans would tend to that end, but he feared they would not go far enough. Despatches were read from Mr. Godley, which communicated that Sir George Grey had expressed willingness to concur in the wish of the Canterbury colonists, if properly expressed, for erection into a separate government.

The voyage and reception of the first party of female emigrants sent to Van Diemen's Land by the Tasmanian Female Emigration Society are described in a letter addressed to the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert by Mr. Arthur Perry, the Honorary Secretary of the Association. It is dated from Hobart Town on the 11th of October, and has been printed for the use of the committee. The following extract contains interesting details:—"I am happy to be able to report to you that the *Australasia* arrived at this port on the 2nd of Oct., after a fine passage of 91 days. The port officer and emigration officer at this port boarded the vessel with myself, about nine miles down the river, and we were glad to find that all the emigrants, with one exception, were in good health. We mustered them, and asked them, collectively and individually, if they had any complaints to make, either against the parties in charge of them,—the captain, officers, and men belonging to the ship,—or of the provisions, or anything else. I am glad to say that they all answered that they had none, and expressed themselves as very grateful for the attention and kindness that had been shown them during the voyage. On enquiring in a brief conduct during the voyage, I found that some (particularly some of the Irish Roman Catholics) had been noisy and rather troublesome during the first part of the voyage, but that they

had all behaved better lately, and that, with a few exceptions, the conduct of all had been satisfactory. I ascertained that nothing immoral was imputed to any one of them whilst on board. On Friday, the 3rd of October, in conjunction with Captain King, I landed them from the ship, and placed them in the dépôt One (P. B.) I placed in St. Mary's Hospital, where I hope she is recovering from a dangerous attack of dyspepsia, and another (M. C.) I placed in charge of a friend. The two B—'s, who brought letters of introduction to many of the most respectable people here, were kindly taken by Mr. J. D. Chapman to his house on the following day, and Mrs. Chapman has obtained an excellent situation for one as a nursery governess at 30*l.* per annum. The other stays with Mrs. Chapman at present, but she already has her choice of many situations. E. J. H. has gone to Archdeacon Marriott's, at 20*l.* per annum, and M. Y. to Mr. Pittcairn's, a most respectable solicitor, at 16*l.* per annum, to commence with. Having placed the girls in the dépôt, I told them that I would not fix the hiring until the following Thursday, thus giving them an opportunity to wash their linen after the voyage, and the settlers throughout the colony the means of hearing of their arrival. On

Thursday last the hiring commenced, and in two hours all were engaged, except one (ill), and the matron and her daughter, who have not yet determined upon staying here. Numbers of ladies went away disappointed at not getting servants, and I am confident that had there been three times the number of English Protestant servants, they would readily have obtained situations. The wages given to the party ranged from 10*l.* to 16*l.*, the major part being about 12*l.* per annum; but almost all will get an increase of their wages if they stay in their places, and conduct themselves well. I intend, by the first direct opportunity, to write to you more fully, and to send you a list of the engagements, wages, &c. In conclusion, I can only remark that the committee, for whom I have the honour of acting, beg to express their thanks to yourself and the committee with whom you are associated for sending out this first party. Every possible kindness and attention has been paid to them here, and I feel assured that none of them, if they conduct themselves well, will regret their emigration to Van Diemen's Land. We shall always be ready to receive your parties, and if they consist of servants, they will prove a great boon to the colony, and will benefit themselves by emigrating."

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE result of the vote for the election of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, as *President of the French Republic*, according to the "Plébiscite" of Dec. 2, was, according to the official report, 7,439,219 in the affirmative, and 640,737 in the negative. The votes of Algeria were not published, mainly because their result was unfavourable. It was afterwards found that, out of 68,000, more than 50,000 abstained, 5735 voted for the President, and 6527 against him. On the evening of the 31st of December the Consultative Commission proceeded to the Elysée, to present to M. Bonaparte the result of the votes. The President received them surrounded by his Ministers and aides-de-camp. M. Baroche, the Vice-President of the Commission, announced the numbers of the votes, as above quoted; and then addressed "Monsieur le Président" with a speech, assuring him that France confided in his courage, his elevated good sense, and his love: no government ever rested on a basis more extensive, or had an origin more legitimate and worthy of the respect of nations. The President made a reply, in which he said, that upwards of seven millions of votes had absolved him, by justifying an act which could have no other object than to save France, and perhaps Europe, from years of trouble and anarchy. "If I congratulate myself," he said, "on this immense adhesion, it is not from pride, but because it gives me the strength to speak and act as becomes the head of a great nation." Cries of "Vive Napoléon!" "Vive le Président!" were raised. The members of the Commission pressed round M. Bonaparte to offer him their congratulations. The Corps Diplomatique were then presented by the Apostolic Nuncio.

The Archbishop of Paris and his clergy offered their congratulations and good wishes for the success of the high mission God had confided to the President. M. Bonaparte returned thanks in a short speech. The two Consistories of the Reformed Church, one of the Church of the Confession of Augsburg, and the Central Israelite Consistory, presented their congratulations.

The "Moniteur" of the 1st of January published the result of the poll, with a decree that a similar publication should be made in every commune of the Republic. Immediately afterwards followed a decree to this effect:—

"The President, considering that the French Republic, in its new form sanctioned by the suffrage of the people, may adopt without umbrage the souvenirs of the Empire and the symbols which recall the glory of that period; and considering that the national flag should no longer be deprived of the renowned emblem which conducted our soldiers to victory in a hundred battles, decrees—1, that the French eagle shall be re-established on the colours of the army; and 2, that it is also re-established on the cross of the Legion of Honour."

On New Year's Day there was a great religious ceremony in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, to inaugurate Louis Napoleon's acceptance of the ten years' Presidency. The scene was got up with elaborate and royal splendour. At ten in the morning the cannon of the Invalides fired seventy salutes, ten for each million of affirmative votes. At noon the President arrived at the great portal of the Cathedral. General Magnan only shared his carriage; and it was noted that he had, for the first time on a public occasion, discarded the uniform of the National Guard, and adopted the purely military costume of a lieutenant-general in the Army. Some of the accounts say that the acclamations as he alighted were few and faint. The Archbishop of Paris met him at the porch, and tendered to him the relic of the *true* cross, in its costly casket, of which the Cathedral officials boast the custody. Louis Napoleon kissed the relic with acted reverence, and took his place in the procession to the altar. The seated spectators rose; and all, even the military, stood uncovered, during his passage from the grand entrance to the chair of state. As he walked up to his place, the orchestra performed the march and "Vivat in æternum," by Lesueur, a quaint and pompous strain. The band then performed the *Te Deum*, which Lesueur (the Emperor Napoleon's Maître de Chapelle) composed for the battle of Austerlitz, and which was afterwards performed in celebration of the taking of Algiers. The service concluded with the "Domine Salvam," thus worded: "Domine, salvam fac Rempublicam—salvum fac Napoleonem, et exaudi nos in die qui invocaverimus." From Notre Dame the President went direct to the Tuileries. The reception of the authorities then took place. After the reception, the President gave a banquet of 400 covers (the same number as at the banquet given by the Emperor to celebrate his instalment as First Consul), at which were present the Ministers, the Diplomatic Corps, the members of the Consultative Commission, the Prefects of the Seine and of Police, the new Municipal Council of Paris, General Levestine, and the Colonels of the National Guard, and last, not least, General Magnan, and the leading officers of the army of Paris. Since that day, the Palace of the Tuileries has been the official residence of the President.

The Municipal Council of the department of the Seine has been dissolved and reconstructed. By this measure a number of the most distinguished members of the old Council have been dismissed. The list includes—M. Bixio, who was for a short time one of the President's ministers; M. Yavin, who in 1848 essentially served the commerce of Paris by the gratuitous liquidation of the civil list; M. Wolowski (brother-in-law of M. Leon Faucher), who, in 1848, opposed the doctrines

promulgated by Louis Blanc; M. Horace Say, son of the celebrated political economist, himself distinguished by his acquisitions in that science; M. Mortimer Ternaux, ex-Deputy, for ten years the indefatigable promoter of the interests of the department; M. Bourdon, Colonel of one of the Parisian Legions of the National Guards, decorated for his services in June, 1848; M. Moreau, a counsellor in the Court of Cassation, who owed his dismissal probably to his courageous protest in behalf of law on the 2nd of December; and Paul Delaroche, the eminent painter. To these men no suspicion of Red Republicanism or Communism attached. General Cavaignac has been liberated from the fortress of Ham, and was married on new year's day to Madlle. Odier, to whom he had been betrothed.

On the 6th, the President visited the Opera, with all the pomp of the Imperial régime. The box occupied by him was made out of three or four of the ordinary boxes, which had been displaced for the purpose. It was disposed in the form of a gorgeous dais, with velvet hangings and gold ornaments, and projected over a portion of the amphitheatre. The dais was surmounted by the huge effigy of an eagle with spread wings, in gold. Around the amphitheatre, immense tricoloured banners were attached to the columns, with the inscription "Honneur et Patrie." Upon the numerous banners hung in the salle and the foyer more than 120 eaglets were painted. The audience looked like the audience of a garrison-town on some special occasion, and on an enormous scale. There were comparatively few ladies, and many of these were attired in the fashion of the Empire. In the boxes were the Ambassadors of England and Turkey, the Ministers of Russia, Naples, Denmark, Spain, Prussia, America, &c.; in the amphitheatre stalls, the Generals and Colonels of the Army; in the orchestra stalls, the Mayors and Delegates; while the wives of the Ambassadors and other ladies of distinction occupied conspicuous places. With such an entourage it was natural that Louis Napoleon should be well received. A characteristic feature of the evening was the performance of two old pieces of Grétry's, a song of victory and a triumphal march, which were always played when the Emperor Napoleon went to the Opera.

The inscription of "Liberté, Egalité, et Fraternité," has been ordered to be effaced from public buildings throughout France. The old names, public buildings, places, and streets, changed during the revolutionary period, have been restored: we have once more, for example, the "Palais Royal," the "Théâtre Français," and the "Grand Opéra."

A decree has announced that the gold, silver, and copper coin shall bear in front the effigy of the President, with the words "Louis Napoleon Bonaparte." On the reverse are to be engraved the words "République Française," and round the edge "Dieu protège la France."

The *New Constitution*, stated to be drawn up in virtue of the powers delegated by the French people to Louis Napoleon Bonaparte by the vote of 20th and 21st December, 1851, has been officially published, along with a proclamation dated the 14th instant. The following is a summary of the terms of the Constitution. It opens with the preamble:—

"The President of the Republic, considering that the French people was called upon to pronounce on the following resolution:—'The people wish the maintenance of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, and gives him the necessary powers to draw up a Constitution, according to the laws established in his proclamation of Dec. 21.' Considering that the laws proposed for the acceptance of the people were—1. A responsible chief named for ten years. 2. Ministers dependent on the executive power only. 3. A Council of State formed of the most distinguished men, preparing the Law and supporting the discussion of them before the Legislative body. 4. A Legislative body discussing and voting the laws, named by universal suffrage, without *scrutin de liste*, which falsifies the election. 5. A second assembly formed of all the illustrious of the country, a power intended to act as a counterpoise and guardian of the fundamental compact and of public liberties. Considering that the people has responded affirmatively by 7,500,000 votes. Art. 1. The Constitution re-admits, confirms, and guarantees the great principles proclaimed in 1789, and which are the bases of the public right of the French."

The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th articles repeat the preceding form

of government, with this new feature, however, that Louis Napoleon styles himself "Prince," as well as President. The articles from 5 to 18 inclusive, which treat of the powers of the President, are as follows:

"The President is to preserve his present title; he is responsible before the people, to whom he can always appeal. He is the chief of the State; he commands the land and sea forces. He alone has the initiative of the Laws, he has a right to declare the state of siege, save the referring of it to the Senate. He presents one message every year. No accusation can be brought against Ministers laid by the Senate. They are only responsible for their respective duties. The functionaries take the oath of obedience to the Constitution, and fidelity to the President. In case of the death of the President, the Senate calls upon the nation for a new election. The President has the right, by a secret deed, deposited with the Senate, to designate to the people the citizen whom he recommends to the suffrage. Until the election of a new President, the President of the Senate governs jointly with Ministers."

Articles 19 to 33 define the Constitution, duties and powers of the Senate:

"The number of senators not to exceed one hundred and fifty. It is fixed at eighty for the first year. The Senators are named for life by the President. Their functions are performed gratuitously; however, the President may grant a salary not exceeding thirty thousand francs. The sitting of the Senate not to be public. It regulates the constitution of colonies and all that has not been provided for by the Constitution. It may propose modifications of the Constitution, but any modification of the bases laid on the proclamation of December 2 will be referred to universal suffrage."

Articles 34 to 46 establish the Legislative Corps:

"There will be a deputy to the legislative body for every thirty-five thousand electors, elected by universal suffrage for ten years, and receiving no emolument. All adopted amendments to be sent, without discussion, before the Council of State, and cannot be discussed if not equally adopted by this one. The sittings will last three months. Reports of the sittings by newspapers will be confined to the official reports of the proceedings drawn up by the bureau. The president and the vice-president are nominated by the President of the Republic for a year. Ministers cannot be deputies. Petitions may be addressed to the Senate, but none to the legislative body. The President of the Republic convokes, adjourns, prorogues, and dissolves the legislative body. In case of dissolution, a new one to be convoked within six months."

The Council of State, and the High Court of Justice are constituted as follows from articles 47 to 55:

"The Council of State, composed of forty or fifty members, is nominated and presided over by the President, who may revoke its members. They receive an annual salary of twenty-five thousand francs. They draw out the project of laws, and discuss them before the Legislature. There will be a High Court of Justice, without appeal, before which will be tried all attempts against the State or its chief."

The general and transitory provisions are these:

"Art. 56. The provisions of the codes, rules, and regulations now existing, which are not opposed to the present Constitution, remain in vigour until they be legally abrogated. Art. 57. A law shall determine the municipal organisation. The Mayor shall be named by the Executive power, and shall be taken from without the Municipal Council. Art. 58. The present Constitution shall be in vigour to date, from the day when the Great Powers of the State organised by it shall be constituted. The decrees issued by the President of the Republic, to commence with the 2nd December to the present period, shall have all the force of law."

Three decrees of proscription, against persons "whose presence in France might impede the re-establishment of tranquillity" appeared in the "Moniteur" of the 10th inst. The first decree banished to French Guiana, for taking part in the recent "insurrection," the ex-Representatives Marc Dufrain, Greppo, Miot, Mathé, and Richardet.—The second decree, "as a measure of general safety," banished "from the territory of the Republic, from Algeria, and from the French colonies," sixty-six ex-Representatives, "whose residence in France would be calculated to foment civil war." In this list are many eminent names; Victor Hugo is among the number.—The third decree, "as a measure of general safety, banished temporarily from the French territory and from Algeria," eighteen ex-Representatives, "who have made themselves remarkable for their violent hostility to the Government." This list includes the names of Generals Changarnier, Lamoricière, Leflo, Bédan, and Laidet; and those of Messieurs Duvergier de Léranne, Baze, Thiers, De Romusat, Emile de Girardin, and several other distinguished persons.

In the evening of the 9th inst. a body of troops marched to the Fort of Ivry to conduct 468 prisoners destined for transportation to the Rouen railway station. In the dead of the night they were placed in a special train, accompanied by their guards, and conveyed to Havre, where they arrived early in the morning. They were then immediately embarked on board a vessel whose commander had orders to put them on board the Duguesclin, lying off Brest, and awaiting their arrival to set sail for Cayenne. Not one of them had been subjected to a trial of any kind—not even before a court-martial. Those who were seized in the streets during the insurrection were carried off to the fort; and all of them, who either failed in giving such an account of themselves as to satisfy the police authorities, or who had not friends sufficiently influential to obtain their release, were ordered off to Cayenne without hesitation or remorse. It appears that the only preparation hitherto made for the reception of these prisoners in Cayenne is the sending out of a considerable number of wooden huts, and some agricultural implements. The total number to be sent to Cayenne amounts to 2500 persons, including 150 political prisoners from Paris, and a considerable number of liberated convicts. The place of destination of these unfortunate persons is in French Guiana, a slip of land extending along the coast of South America, from two degrees to five degrees north of the equator. They will be landed on a swampy and pestilential island, separated from the mainland by a river a league in width, and utterly destitute of the resources of manual industry. The population of Cayenne does not exceed 2000 whites, and 5000 negroes, and the colony is quite unprepared for the reception of a large immigration of men who have figured in the political and social life of France.

Louis Napoleon has assumed the title of "*Prince President of the French Republic*," and is addressed in official documents as "*Monseigneur*."

The latest measure of the usurper has been the confiscation of the property of the Orleans family. It was preceded by a change in the ministry: M. Morny and M. Fould, the ministers of the interior, having given place to M. Persigny. The decree of confiscation appeared in the "*Moniteur*" of the 23rd, and is to the following effect:—The members of the Orleans family, their husbands and consorts, and descendants, cannot possess any property (moveable or immoveable) in France. They are bound to sell within a year all that belongs to them in the territory of the Republic; in default, the sale will be made by the state. The dotation in favour of his children made by Louis Philippe on the 7th of August, 1830 (two days before he accepted the revolutionary crown), of the reversionary interest in all the estates of the Orleans family, after his own life interest, (a dotation asserted to be illegal, as an alienation of "crown" property,) is cancelled; and the following distribution is made of its value, about 200,000,000 francs; 10,000,000 francs to societies of *secours mutuels*; 10,000,000 francs to the improvement of the lodgings for the working-classes; 10,000,000 francs to the establishment of a *credit foncier*; 5,000,000 francs to a benefit fund for the poor clergy; all the officers, sub-officers, and soldiers in active service, will receive a donative according to their rank in the Legion of Honour—the legionaries, 250 francs; the officers, 500 francs; commanders, 1000 francs; grand officers, 2000 francs; grand crosses, 3000 francs; a national palace will serve for an establishment for the education of orphans and families whose heads have obtained a military medal, which entitles them to a pension for life of 100 francs. The Palace of Saverne will serve as an asylum to the widows of high functionaries, civil as well as military, who have died in the service of the state; and the state is charged with payment of their debts. The debts of the civil list of the last reign are taken upon the state. The dowry of 300,000 francs to the Duchess of Orleans is maintained.

Titles of nobility are restored; the decree of the provisional government of 1848, respecting titles of nobility, having been abrogated by a decree published in the "*Moniteur*" of the 25th inst.

An instance of the persecution directed against the old nobility has just been made public. The Marquise

D'Osmond, a Legitimist lady, who gives brilliant *réunions* at her house on the Boulevard de la Madeleine, received an official intimation from the Minister of the Interior that politics were not approved of by the government as a subject of conversation at parties, and that as many other subjects gave equal scope for social communication, there existed no necessity for discussing the acts of the government. Consequently the marquise was requested to intimate to her guests that they must refrain from talking politics. Madame D'Osmond, after receiving this notice, invited to her next party only ladies; but the absence of the "lords of creation" did not prevent the company present from exchanging the freest criticisms possible upon the deeds of the government, and in particular from venting their indignation at the invasion of private society by such monstrous prohibitions. The next morning Madame D'Osmond received a note from M. de Morny begging her to name which of her chateaux the marquise would prefer for her country residence, as her sojourn at Paris any longer for the present had become impossible; and intimating that her return to the capital would not be permitted without an express permission from the President of the Republic.

The reign of terror in the provinces resembles the worst days of 1793. In many parts of the country the troops go out and beat the woods for men as if they were hunting game. A detachment of the 35th regiment, after a long chase, lately caught seventeen in a forest at St. Thibery, in the Hérault, at two o'clock in the morning. In the same neighbourhood the papers speak of arrests by the dozen, and by the score, as having been made by the military at Roujan, Puisseux, Caux, Neflies, and Pezenas. At Clermont. Canet, St. Andre, Aspiron, and several communes of Lodève, cafés and public-houses without number have been closed. In the Vaucluse a lieutenant of Gendarmerie, at the head of some Gendarmes and 150 men of the 54th regiment, have been very successful in making captures. A man named Sauvan, who took to his heels, was brought down by a grenadier. The ball entered his back and came out at his belly. At Cuers the sport seems to be left to the civil power. M. Girard, a judge of instruction, is indefatigable there. Within eight days he arrested 370 men, being about one-fourth of the male population of the place. The gaoler at Toulon was one day surprised at the visit of a large column of men, who, struck with terror, and driven to despair by the incessant harassing of the soldiery, came to surrender themselves prisoners. He had not room to lodge so much unexpected company, and, after taking down their names, begged them to be good enough to call again. This they did, and they were ultimately stowed away somewhere. In the fort of Lamalgue, at Toulon, there are now 1200 prisoners. In the neighbourhood of Crest, the pursuit of political refugees can only be compared to chamois hunting. The country there is rocky, and several of the proscribed have been shot at repeatedly by their pursuers.

The new Ministry is definitively constituted as follows:—MM. Abbattucci, Justice; De Persigny, Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce; Bineau, Finances; De Saint Arnaud, War; Ducos, Marine; Turgot, Foreign Affairs; Fortoul, Public Instruction and Worship; De Maupas, Police; Casabianca, State; Lefebvre Durafle, Public Works. Meanwhile all is gayety at the Tuilleries. On Saturday night, the 24th, the President gave a grand ball, at which between four and five thousand persons were present. The whole range of buildings was brilliantly illuminated. The grand staircase was profusely adorned with wreaths of flowers, which were continued into the magnificent suite of apartments freshly repaired and restored to all their original splendour for the occasion. Notwithstanding the immense spaciousness of the brilliantly illuminated halls, the crush was so dense that people could hardly arrive by forming *en queue* from the bottom of the staircase to the top in less than half an hour. Uniforms bedaubed with gold, and breasts plaited with orders, glittered on all hands. Great numbers of English and Russian officers appeared to be present, from the sprinkling of scarlet and green coats and furred hussar jackets. Then all the various

dialects of the British Isles greeted the painful explorer of this resplendent crowd. The President made his appearance at twelve, in the Salle des Maréchaux, coming from the Pavillon Marsan. He was dressed in the uniform of a lieutenant-general of the line, and wore the grand cordon and the *crachat* of the Legion of Honour. He had a rosette of the same order attached to his sword-hilt, and in his button-hole the little plain decoration which was always worn by the Emperor, and sometimes given away as a mark of high personal distinction. The President's face looked worn, and his eyes fatigued, but he forced an appearance of gaiety. The Princess Mathilde, who stood by him, and wore a superb diadem of brilliants, laughed incessantly, as if in the highest spirits. The President was attended by the Minister of War, General Saint Arnaud; General Roguet, his head aid-de-camp; Dr. Conneau, his physician; and a numerous and brilliant staff followed. The Marquis and Marchioness of Douglas, the former in his splendid Highland costume, appeared beside the Princess Mathilde. After remaining a quarter of an hour, the President retired with his suite to the small apartments of the Pavillon Marsan, where what may be styled his court were gathered.

The emperor of Austria, by a series of decrees published on the 1st of January, has formally annulled the Constitution of March 1849, and has promulgated certain fundamental principles of the future organic institutions of the empire. By this *projet*, the Crown lands are parcelled out into districts and circles as before, governed by officials, who are appointed by Ministers, and subordinate to the Stadtholders. The communes in town and country are still allowed, in name, to choose their own mayors; but the elections must be confirmed by government, which reserves to itself the power of approving them. The communes thus formed have only to take cognizance of their own local matters. The great nobles and landed proprietors, and the country gentry, will be admitted to the consultations of the Stadtholders and presidents of circles; the sphere and object of their co-operations to be clearly defined afterwards. Every vestige of the parliamentary system has been carefully kept out of sight in this new scheme for governing the Imperial territories; not even the provincial Landstände being reinstated. The publicity of governmental or communal proceedings is no longer tolerated. The department of justice is to be kept distinct from that of the administration. Open courts and trial by jury are abolished.

Some serious disturbances have taken place in Spain. Some time before the Queen's accouchement, it was officially announced that bountiful largesse would be distributed to the private soldiers of the army, along with the promotions for officers. But when the Gazette of the 7th instant appeared there was no mention of largesse, and it proved that the Treasury was not in condition to disburse any. Several of the regiments broke into such excesses that the officers were obliged to invest them by other regiments; shots were actually exchanged before the rioters were captured. On the 8th, the men seized were tried by court-martial, and on the 9th three of the men condemned were shot. It is said that the discontent of the troops had been fomented by emissaries.

A decree has been issued, destroying the little that remained of the liberty of the press. Newspapers which publish alarming news are to be subject to the penalties of the 35th article of the decree of 1844. These penalties are to extend to all periodicals or publications which in censuring the official acts of the constituted authorities, make use of words that imply disrespect to the same. If within twelve hours after the seizure of a newspaper, the editor or responsible person should solicit that the newspaper should not be prosecuted, it will not be prosecuted, but the number seized will not be allowed to circulate. All newspapers or publications in which the dignity of the king or queen, or any of the royal family, be called in question, or in which religion or the priesthood be attacked, or which offend public morals, or which, without the permission of the party interested, publish facts relative to his or her private

life, and which have no bearing upon public affairs, are to be seized. When any periodical has been condemned three times, the minister can suppress the said periodical or suspend it at the royal pleasure. The government is preparing a law for the diminishing the number of deputies in the chamber, and changing the mode of election.

Accounts from Florence describe the maltreatment of a British subject by the Austrian military. Mr. Erskine Mather, a young Irishman, was listening to the band of an Austrian regiment that was relieving guard at the Pitti Palace, and as the troops marched off he accompanied them to continue in hearing of the music. To avoid a cart in a narrow street, he walked between the band and the head of the column. As he was walking he received a blow from the flat of a sabre, and turning round indignantly, he found that the officer of the column had taken that polite means to admonish him that he must not keep his place. Remonstrating, in as good Italian as he could utter, he was insulted by threatening gestures; and becoming energetic in manner, another officer stepped forward and struck him down with an edge blow on the head. His hat was cut through, and a deep wound was given him through the scalp to the bone of the skull. Mr. Mather called on his brother to dog the officers to their station, if he himself should be left to die on the pavement: the brother obeyed, and the inhabitants conveyed the wounded young man to the hospital of Santa Maria Nuova. Numbers of bystanders witnessed the atrocious conduct of the officers. Our Secretary of Legation, Mr. Scarlett, has applied for redress both to the Tuscan Government and to the Prince Lichtenstein, the Austrian commandant of the Grand Duchy.

Accounts from Leghorn of the 20th ult. states that Henry Stratford, calling himself Lord Aldborough, and his brother Edward Stratford, have been condemned to death by the court-martial, upon the charge of conspiracy to overturn the government, and the unlawful possession of arms. The third brother, Charles Stratford, has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment in chains. But the punishment has in each case been commuted. Henry Stratford is to suffer ten years' imprisonment, Edward Stratford six years', and Charles Stratford has been set at liberty, the imprisonment previous to his trial being reckoned a sufficient punishment.

Accounts have been received from our slave squadron on the Coast of Guinea, of an attack on the Negro King of Lagos, whose possessions skirt the Bight of Benin. This potentate, Coriooco by name, had forbidden the men-of-war boats from coming up the river to Lagos; but previously Mr. Beecroft, the Consul at Fernando Po, with the commanders of the Harlequin and Waterwitch, and Lieutenant Patey, the commander of the Bloodhound steam-tender, had been received by the King with every demonstration of respect. They, however, failed in their object to engage the King to promise on the part of himself and subjects not to favour the slave-trade. Mr. Beecroft determined on seeking another interview with the King; and in order to show his sable majesty the hopelessness of any successful resistance in carrying on the traffic, arranged that the armed boats of the squadron should accompany him up the river under a flag of truce. Accordingly, the slave squadron fitted out twenty-three boats with an armed force of two hundred and sixty officers and men, and sent them in towards the river, accompanied by the Niger screw-sloop and the Bloodhound steam-tender. When within about a mile and a half of the town the Bloodhound grounded; and, as she could not be got off, the boats formed line and proceeded up the river, and kept on, with the flag of truce flying, until they received a heavy fire from some guns and musketry on shore. The fire was harmless, on account of the distance; but now the boats opened their fire with shrapnel shells and round shot, the Niger at the same time throwing a shell or two on the point near the mouth of the river. After exchanging a continuous fire for nearly an hour with a

beach lined for more than a mile with bodies of men, the boats dashed at the shore, and effected a landing simultaneously at one spot; and then, leaving a sufficient guard at the boats, about one hundred and sixty officers and men fought their way into the town. They were met, however, with most determined resistance on the part of the natives; who disputed every inch of ground until after having two officers killed and six men wounded, Captain Forbes fired the houses in the neighbourhood, and retreated in good order. The Bloodhound was got aloft the same night, and the boats returned to the squadron. The officers killed were Mr. Dyer and Mr. Hall, mates of the *Niger*. In addition to the deaths and serious wounds, there were many hurts from spent balls.

The *Niger* took the wounded to Sierra Leone, and proceeded in search of the Commodore; and it was understood that Commodore Bruce had proceeded to Lagos to organise such a force as would compel the King of Lagos to submission; the *Harlequin*, in the mean time, by her presence off the coast, preventing the King of Lagos from forming any new expedition against the missionary establishment at Badagry.

In consequence of this affair, the *London Gazette* has announced the establishment of an effective blockade by the British squadron under Commodore Bruce of that part of the western coast of Africa in the Bight of Benin, between the first and fourth degrees of longitude east of Greenwich, Badagry excepted, and declared that no merchant vessel would be permitted to hold any communication whatever with the ports and places interdicted.

The accounts from *New York* contain further details of Kossuth's reception in the United States. From *New York* he went to Philadelphia and Baltimore, where he had public receptions, and banquets given in his honour. On the 30th of December he arrived at Washington. Many members of the Congress called on him and he made a speech in reply to the respects paid to him by the Jackson Democratic Association. But his arrival created no excitement and drew forth no crowds. His second day in Washington was marked by a strong debate in the House of Representatives, as to the mode of his reception by that body, which ended in adjournment without a decision. On that day he had a private interview with President Fillmore. In reply to a speech by Kossuth, the President said—

"I am happy, Governor Kossuth, to welcome you to this land of freedom, and it gives me pleasure to congratulate you upon your release from a long confinement in Turkey and your late arrival here. As an individual, I sympathised deeply with you in your brave struggle for the independence and freedom of your native land. The American people can never be indifferent to such a contest; but our policy as a nation, in this respect has been uniform from the commencement of our Government; and my own views, as the chief executive magistrate of this nation, are fully and freely expressed in my recent message to Congress, to which you have been pleased to allude. They are the same, whether speaking to Congress here or to the nations of Europe. Should your country be restored to independence and freedom, I should then wish you, as the greatest blessing you could enjoy, a restoration to your native land; but should that never happen, I can only repeat my welcome to you and your companions here, and pray that God's blessing may rest upon you wherever your lot may be cast."

On the 5th instant, he was introduced to the senate by Mr. Shields, Mr. Steward, and General Cass. The Senate received him with silent respect; and adjourned, that the members might be introduced to him individually. The accounts state that Kossuth had informed the Secretary of the Interior, that "the opposition which he met from the Congress and the Executive convinced him that his mission has failed;" he was "deeply disappointed at the result of his mission at Washington," which was "wholly unexpected." The House of Representatives gave him a public reception, at which he was received silently, but more cordially than at that of the Senate. On the 7th instant, a great "Congressional banquet" of three hundred persons, chiefly members of Congress, was given to him at the National Hotel. Kossuth made a speech; in which he thus stated the object of his mission.

"I hoped, and now hope, that the noble-minded people of the United States will feel induced to pronounce in time their vote

upon the question of international law violated in the case of my country. I know, and Europe knows, the immense weight of such a pronouncement from such a place. But never had I the impious wish to try to entangle this great Republic into difficulties inconsistent with its own welfare, its own security, its own interest. I rather repeatedly and earnestly declared, that a war on this account by your country is utterly impossible, and a mere phantom. But I said and say, that such a declaring of just principles would insure to the nations of Europe fair play in their struggle for freedom and independence, because the declaration of such a power as your Republic will be respected even where it should not be liked; and Europe's oppressed nations will feel cheered in resolution and doubled in strength, to maintain the decision of their American brethren on their own behalf with their own lives."

According to the last intelligence Kossuth had set out on a tour to the other great cities of the Union—to Annapolis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, St. Louis, New Orleans, Charleston, Albany, Buffalo. He was to return to New York, and start for England from Boston.

A fire has taken place in the capitol of Washington, which has burnt the Congressional library; upwards of 35,000 volumes were destroyed, together with manuscripts, paintings, and maps. The declaration of independence was fortunately preserved.

The immigration into New York for the year 1851 was 289,600, of which 163,256 were from Ireland, 28,553 from England, and 69,883 from Germany.

The *New York "National Police Gazette"* contains a mass of shocking details relative to the proceedings of the Mormons at the Salt Lake. A correspondent of that paper, writing from Utah, says: "The pluralist wife system is in full vogue here. Governor Young is said to have ninety wives. He drove along the streets a few days ago with sixteen of them in a long carriage, fourteen of them having each an infant at her bosom. It is said Heber C. Kimball, one of the triune council, and the second person in the Trinity, has almost an equal number, and among them are a mother and her two daughters. Each man may have as many wives as he can maintain, that is, after the women have been picked and culled by the head men. Whole pages might be filled with the surprising disgusting details of the state of affairs here." It is a lamentable fact that, at the present time, numbers of people are leaving Great Britain to join the Mormons, notwithstanding the disclosures that are so constantly made.

A frightful catastrophe occurred at New York on the 12th inst., in a building owned by the Commissioners of Emigration, for the reception of the newly-arrived emigrants. The building is five stories high, and each floor appropriated for the emigrants—the upper rooms principally for the women, and the lower part for the men. It seems that between nine and ten o'clock at night the City-hall bell rung an alarm of fire, and some of the women on the upper floors called out "Fire," which instantly created a panic of alarm on each floor among them, and a general rush was made for the stairway, which being very contracted, they fell one on the top of each other, creating an awful state of confusion. So terrified were some, that they broke out the second and third story windows and sprang out, falling with deadly violence in the yard below. The screams and cries of the affrighted women and children soon called the aid of the police, who rendered every assistance in their power. Six dead bodies were conveyed to the station-house, and eight persons were conveyed to the city hospital with broken arms and bodily injuries, some of whom were not expected to survive. Those killed were all children, except one, a young woman about twenty years of age. They were all suffocated by the number of persons crowded on them. At the time the alarm was given there were about 480 emigrants in the building, the larger proportion women and children.

The dates from Mexico are to the 20th of December. Congress had adjourned on the 14th. President Arista delivered an address upon the occasion, in which he referred to the financial difficulties of the country, and stated that they were still more urgent and menacing than ever, and could only be surmounted by acts of patriotic abnegation. The defeat of the attempted revolution in the neighbourhood of the United States' frontier furnished a strong topic of congratulation, and the speech ended by an appeal to the spirit of the people to preserve the independence of their country.

It appears that the bill introduced for the removal of the prohibitions on raw cotton and coarse cotton fabrics had passed the Chamber of Deputies, but had been thrown out by the Senate.

Advices have been received from *California* to the 15th of December. At the mines there was nothing new. The rainy season caused a suspension of labour on the rivers, but increased it in another way by supplying water for washing soil that had been previously heaped up. Fresh discoveries of quartz veins and other deposits were made with undiminished frequency, and were sufficient to show that the room for employment is inexhaustible. In some places, it is mentioned, the quartz increases in richness with its depth, and in one instance several pounds weight, that showed no gold, yielded on being tested 2 dollars to the pound. The

account of the extraordinary discovery made by some Mexicans at a spot called Bear Valley, whence they obtained 200,000 dollars in ten days, is fully confirmed. The profits of agriculture in California during the past year had been very great. Outrages by the Indians still caused much excitement. But many murders committed by other persons were charged upon them. It appears that the total of Californian gold received at the mints of New Orleans and Philadelphia during 1851 had amounted to 11,000,000*l*. This, with a moderate estimate for the sums retained at San Francisco, and the direct exports thence to England, China, Australia, the Sandwich Islands, the Pacific coast, and other places, would indicate that the aggregate yield for the year must have exceeded 15,000,000*l*, which has been the highest amount generally anticipated.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

ONE of the busiest months of the publishing year has supplied us with a larger proportion than usual of volumes likely to find a permanent place in libraries. The fifth and sixth volumes of *Lord Mahon's History* have been followed by four volumes of the *Grenville Papers* and the *Rockingham Memoirs*, respectively comprising the principal correspondence of Lord Temple, Mr. George Grenville, and the Marquis of Rockingham, with their friends and contemporaries, and throwing light on the track of Lord Mahon's narrative. There has been published also, in three octavo volumes, Lady Theresa Lewis's *Lives of the Contemporaries of Lord Clarendon*, including biographies of the great Chancellor's friends Falkland, Capell, and Hertford, who with him adhered to the Royal Standard after Charles had planted it at Edgehill; and containing also a descriptive and quasi-biographical catalogue of all the Vandyke portraits painted for Lord Clarendon's gallery. *The Life and Letters of Barthold George Niebuhr* is a yet more important biographical work; comprising, in two volumes, all the most valuable of the letters included in the celebrated German publication by the great historian's sister; and contributing much matter of equal value from original sources. Nor greatly inferior to these in interest are the two large octavos which contain the *Life and Letters of Joseph Story*, the celebrated lawyer and jurist of America, which have been carefully edited by his son.

The latter work is a contribution from the United States. So is the *Life of General Washington*, compiled in two duodecimos by the Rev. Mr. Upham from letters and memorials indited by the great father of the Republic himself. So (in as far as relates to the getting-up, as well as authorship, of the volumes) are the two handsome octavos published by Messrs. Longman on *Nicaragua*, its people, its scenery, its monuments, and, describing that proposed great Inter-oceanic Canal in which the author of the book, Mr. Squier, the late Commissioner of the United States in those distant scenes, has so notably interested himself. And so, we may say (though the collecting, reprinting, and editorship may be held to constitute an original book), are the *Traits of American Humour by Native Authors*, collected by Mr. Haliburton, and published in three amusing volumes.

Returning now to the more direct contributions of English writers or translators, we have to mention, among the more prominent publications of the month, two octavo volumes with the title of *Protestantism Contrasted with Romanism*, of which the object is to put in close apposition, on successive dogmas and doctrines of Christianity, the acknowledged and authentic teaching of each religion. Mr. Caird has also republished his letters on *English Agriculture* in 1850-51 which were written for publication in the Times. Mr. E. Pococke has given us a disquisition on *India in Greece*, of which the design is to refer the sources of Hellenic faith and civilisation to the East. Mr. Worsaae, an intelligent Danish antiquarian, has written an *Account of the Danes and Norwegians in England, Scotland, and Ireland*, vindic-

ating the fair fame of his countrymen in the doubtful transaction of their English invasion, which Mr. Murray publishes in an excellent translation. The Hakluyt Society have added to their valuable and interesting stores a translated volume of *Notes upon Russia* at the opening of the sixteenth century, by the German ambassador Herberstein. And another curious translation has been made of a series of tales illustrative of the political morality of the East, written by a Sicilian Arab of the twelfth century, first brought into notice by Amari, and now published in English with the title of *Sohran, or the Waters of Comfort*.

General literature has had several agreeable additions. Mr. Broderip has collected another volume of his delightful anecdotes and illustrations of natural history, under the title of *Note Book of a Naturalist*. To Miss Mitford we are indebted for three volumes of *Recollections of a Literary Life*, which relate however (and they are none the worse for this) more to books than persons. To the Hon. Henry J. Coke we owe thanks for *A Ride over the Rocky Mountains to Oregon and California*; to Mr. R. H. Mason for *Pictures of Life in Mexico*, half-fact, half-fiction, but meant to express life as actually existing there; to the Rev. H. Formby for a pleasing collection of words and music under the title of the *Young Singer's Book of Songs*; and to sundry publishers for sundry additions to illustrated, fanciful, and children's literature, of which the single volumes best worth mention are a new translation of Andersen's *Danish Fairy Tales and Legends*; a collection of illustrated nursery lays, called *Child's Play*, by E. V. B.; a little story on the *Pathway of the Fawn*, by Mrs. T. K. Hervey; another entitled *Mary Gray*, by the author of the 'Discipline of Life'; and two little volumes which are meant as imitations of old books, written and printed after the manner of some centuries ago, with the respective titles of *Queen Philippa's Golden Booke*, and the *Household of Sir Thomas More*.

Our list for the month will be tolerably complete when we have added some works of fiction, and two books suggested by a leading topic of the day, which latter we will mention first. Captain Addison has translated and annotated a Swiss baron's treatise (the Baron P. E. Maurice) *On National Defence in England*, and Colonel Chesney has published *Observations on the Past and Present State of Fire Arms*, and on the probable effects in war of the new musket. Of the principal novels of the month the names are the *Two Families*, *Emily Howard*, the *Delameres of Delamere Court*, *Alerton and Drewe*, and *Darien*, the last by poor Eliot Warburton. Mr. Lemon has published a volume of his papers and poems from periodicals, with the title of *Prose and Verse*; and Mr. Wilkie Collins has written a Christmas story called Mr. Wray's *Cash-Box*.

We may close with a mention of the appearance of the first part of Dr. Smith's *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*, which will convey a welcome intimation to all who possess the other classical dictionaries issued by the same scholar.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Dec. 30th, 1851. E. H. FURBERGEE and P. BEARE, Lime-street, merchants.—C. W. ELLIOTT, Aylesbury, grocer.—J. KIRBY, Buckingham, miller.—J. J. BARRELL, Billerica, Essex, grocer.—J. FURNISS, Almondbury, Yorkshire, woollen-cloth-manufacturer.—J. FORSTER, Liverpool, filter-merchant.—G. I. HIGGINS, Hutton Sessay, Yorkshire, cattle-dealer.—C. L. R. WILKINSON and E. BOND, Manchester, calico-printers.—R. PEEL, Blackburn, ironmonger.—R. DARLINGTON, Wigan, scrivener.

Jan. 2nd, 1852. J. A. EDWARDS, Toxteth Park, Liverpool, boarding-house-keeper.—H. COULTIS, Newport, Monmouthshire, grocer.—J. ALLOTT, Sandal Magna, Yorkshire, banker.—T. HALL, Hull, innkeeper.—R. THOMAN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, engine-builder.

Jan. 6th. E. H. PALMER, Brentford, brewer.—H. R. SABINE, Poppin-court, Fleet-street, card-maker.—P. SUMMERS, Tabernacle-walk, fancy printer.—R. TROWER, College-street, Chelsea, builder.—J. COLES, Buckingham, dealer in corn.—J. COOLE, Limington, Somersetshire, miller.—T. HITCHENS, St. Thomas-the-Apostle, Devonshire, timber-merchant.—T. ROBINSON, Hull, broker.—H. BROWN, Liverpool, ship-chandler.

Jan. 9th. R. and R. BILLING, Reading, brick-makers.—F. P. COBB, Canterbury, grocer.—S. MASON, Newcastle-under-Lyme, draper.—J. WILLIAMS, Bristol, shipowner.—D. ROOBYER, Tavistock, ironmonger.—G. MILNES, Scarborough, cloth-merchant.—J. B. TAYLOR, Liverpool, commission-agent.—R. W. OGLIVIE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ship-broker.

Jan. 13th. W. MOSS, jun., Stock, Essex, miller.—A. MARKWICK, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, manufacturer.—H. STANLEY, Gerard-street, Soho, scrivener.—E. WICKES, Taversham, linen-draper.—R. P. WESTON, Wellington, surgeon.—I. GARDINER, Bristol, saddler.—G. MOON, Borrowby, Yorkshire, corn-miller.—J. P. T. LAZARUS, Stewart-street, Spitalfields, merchant.—J. COOPER, Liverpool, butcher.—J. S. ORFORD and W. KIRKHAM, Manchester, paper-hangers.

Jan. 16th. F. F. WOODS, Pelham-place, Brompton, builder.—J. BRISTOW, Lewes, tea-dealer.—W. HUSTON, St. James's-terrace, Harrow-road, builder.—W. DALTON, Charlotte-street, Piccadilly, grocer.—J. INGRAM, Southampton, seedsman.—T. U. ANDERSON, Wellington, Shropshire, mercer.—J. VARLEY, Manchester, chemist.

Jan. 20th. F. R. HEWLETT, Leyton, Essex, cowkeeper.—G. COLLIER, Landport, Hampshire, draper.—G. MARSH, Church-street, Minorities, carpenter.—R. YOUNGMAN, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, miller.—J. AMERY, Chelmsford, hotel-keeper.—J. POTTER, Birmingham, mill-manufacturer.—W. HAYWOOD, Birmingham, grocer.—J. KETTON, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, grocer.—J. O'DONNELL, Sheffield, grocer.—M. A. KEEL, Liverpool, coffee-house-keeper.—R. H. BELL and E. BELL, South Shields, paper-manufacturers.

Jan. 23rd. W. D. PRITCHARD and D. PRITCHARD, High-street, Marylebone, coach-smiths.—J. G. MARSH, Church-street, Minorities, carpenter.—T. HARRIS and J. BURLS, Hampstead-road, brewers.—G. POTTER, Grosvenor-basins, Piccadilly, linen-burner.—G. FLINT, Lombard-street, hosier.—F. LONG, Vere-street, Oxford-street, importer of foreign lace.—T. COOMAN, Wolverhampton, huckster.—J. HICKEY, Birmingham, linen-draper.—R. S. JAMES, Leeds, ironmonger.—W. BELSHAW, Manchester, joiner.—J. H. GILLAN, Liverpool, commission-merchant.

Jan. 27th. A. A. COGAR, Newgate-street, boot and shoe-dealer.—G. GILL and F. D. WILSON, Old Broad-street, City, Russia brokers.—J. BOXALL, Brighton, coachmaker.—H. F. WOLLASTON, Wandswoth-road, merchant.—F. WINCK, Margate, tailor.—W. PLATES, Crawford-street, Marylebone, draper.—J. J. NERINCKX, Great Portland-street, Lacman.—W. ROCK, Surrey-place, Surrey, printer.—H. GLADWIN, Nottingham, draper.—E. TINSLEY, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, cooper.—W. WOOD, Bristol, provision-merchant.—W. LOUGHER, T. LOUGHER, and D. LOUGHER, Plymouth, iron-founders.—C. BACON, Walton, Somersetshire, tailor.—J. COPLAND, Barnstaple, Devonshire, draper.—H. PORSN, Plymouth, builder.—E. WALKER, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, wooldraper.—S. BICKERTON, Liverpool, butcher.—W. J. FOULKES, Birkenhead, druggist.—G. HOPKINSON, Liverpool, coach-builder.—J. J. RAYNER, Manchester, tailor.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Jan. 13th. G. HAYNES, Leek, Staffordshire, draper.

MONEY MARKET.

Upon the whole, the effect of the condition of France on the English Stock-market has not been important. The fluctuations, both in the Government Stock and Railway-markets, has not been great; but, taking the month through, their tendency has shown a trifling decline. A great portion, although not the whole of this decline, is doubtless due to the character of the events in France.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	97½	96½	96½
Three per Cent. Reduced	98½	97	97½
Three and a quarter per Cent.	99	98	98½
Lotter Annuities, Jan. 1850	7½	7	7½
Bank Stock, 7 per cent.	217	215½	216½
India Stock	261	259	259
Exchequer Bills, £1000	59	56	58pm
India Bonds, £1000	72	64	72

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Belgian 4½ per cent., 92½	Peruvian 5 per cent., 91½
Brazilian 5 per cent., 93	Portuguese 4 per cent., 32½
Chilian 6 per cent., 101	Russian 4½ per cent., 100½
Danish 5 per cent., 103½	Sardinian 8½
Dutch 4 p. c. certificates, 90	Spanish 5 per cent., acc., 22½
Mexican 5 per cent., 29½	

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Brighton and South Coast	98	96½	97½
all	Blackwall	7½	6½	7
30	Caledonian	16	15½	15½
50	Eastern Counties	7	6½	6½
50	Edinburgh and Glasgow	28	26	26
all	Great Northern	18½	18½	18½
100	Great Western	87½	85	85
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	62	60½	61½
100	Midland	58½	54½	55½
25	North British	7½	6½	6½
100	North-Western	118½	114½	115
30	South-Eastern	21½	20½	20
100	South-Western	87½	85	86½
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	18½	17½	17½
50	York and North Midland	23½	21½	21½

RAILWAY FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Roulogne and Amiens, 10½	Paris and Orleans, 42
Dutch Rhensish, 3½	Paris and Rouen, 26
East Indian, 3 p.	Paris and Strasbourg, 15½
Namur and Liege, 6	Rouen and Havre, 10½
Northern of France, 17½	Tours and Nantes, 8½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 30s.; Oats, 19s. to 23s.; Rye, 26s.; Beans, 25s. to 30s.; Peas, 30s. to 34s.; Flour per sack, 34s. to 37s. American, per barrel of 196 lbs., 19s. to 25s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Limerick, 42s. Belfast, 40s.	Eggs, per 120, English, 5s. to 6s.
Beef, per tierce, prime mess, 80s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 50s. to 60s.; Irish, 46s. to 67s.; Westphalia, 48s. to 50s.
Butter, per cwt.—Carlow, 1st, 74s. to 80s.; Waterford, 1st, 66s. to 74s.; Dutch Friesland, 96s. to 100s.; Limerick, 1st, 66s. to 74s.	Mutton, per 8 lbs., 3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 40s. to 54s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 31s. to 39s.; American, 42s. to 46s.	Pork, per 8 lbs., 3s. to 3s. 6d.; American, new, per barrel, 46s. to 55s.
	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Ware, 43s. to 76s.; Kent and Essex Middling, 25s. to 40s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. in bond. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 25s. 6d. to 42s.; Bahia, 26s. 6d. to 48s.	Sago, per cwt. in bond.—Pearl, 15s. to 17s.
Coffee, per cwt. in bond.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 38s. 6d. to 72s.; Mocha, 70s. to 85s.; St. Domingo, 37s. to 40s.; Sumatra, 33s. to 35s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica, 26s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 24s. 6d. to 28s.; Brazil, 14s. to 22s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal mid. to fine white, 8s. 6d. to 11s. 6d.; Madras, 7s. 6d. to 9s.	Tea, per lb. in bond.—Ord. Congou, 8½d. to 18.7½d.; Sou-chong, com. to fine, 1s. to 2s. 2d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 1s. 2d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. 3d. to 2s.

Candles, per 12 lbs. 4s. 6d. to 6s. | Coals, per ton, 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d.

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 32½	Olive, Gallipoli, 41½
Sperm, 84½ to 86½	Lusced, 21½ 6s.
Cod, 31½ to 32½	

THE
HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE
OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.]

FROM THE 29TH JANUARY TO THE 25TH FEBRUARY.

[PRICE 2d.]

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

A GREAT many years ago Mr. Isaac Bickerstaff expressed a strong wish, for the good of the nation, that clever politicians having nothing particular to do could be induced to take pleasure in feeding ducks. "I look upon an able statesman out of business," he remarked, "like a huge whale that will endeavour to overturn the ship unless he has an empty cask to play with."

Having no better diversion to occupy him, Lord Palmerston has overturned the ship. It was quite unexpected. Indeed, nothing that is expected is to be looked for now a-days. At the very moment when the ministerial evening journal was complacently stating it as a "fair ground of congratulation," that on the momentous question of national defences no greater difference existed between public men possessed of official responsibility or official experience, "than the difference between Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston as to calling out the local or regular Militia," this very difference was exploding in the House of Commons, blowing up Lord John, putting Lord Derby in his place, and making Mr. Disraeli right honourable and her Majesty's Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In what "the difference" really consisted that led to this remarkable result is not the least surprising part of the affair. Some few weeks ago Lord John Russell turned out Lord Palmerston for his too friendly disposition to M. Bonaparte, and it is Lord Palmerston who now turns out Lord John Russell for his want of vigour in arming against M. Bonaparte. It is one of those transactions where nobody knows what anybody means, and in which, when "explanation" once begins, all hope of ever knowing anything is utterly extinguished. The only thing placed beyond any matter of doubt is, that a protection ministry is again in office; and that to what Mr. Disraeli calls "the men of metal and large-acred squares, the Pakingtons, Mileses, and Henleys, the stout heart of Mr. Buck, and the pleasant presence of Walter Long," the government of England is confided for the present.

Our Narrative will duly inform the curious inquirer to what an extraordinary jumble of business in arrears these men of stout metal, and comely presence, will be asked to address themselves with as little delay as may be. Never did so many things hang on hand which people's minds are more or less made up to get settled and put out of hand. It is clear that we must have proper and efficient Defences. Every one feels an instinct of alarm on this point, more unerring than the clearest demonstrations by which reason might attempt to prove it. It is not less clear that we must be rid of our Chancery Abuses. The Queen denounced them in her speech, and her subjects are literally dying of them. It may be less clear, but is hardly less desirable, that we should have our Parliament Reformed. Its abuses and dilapidations are confessed by all parties, and what Lord John was doing to cobble them up has at least served to

make it quite manifest that they cannot much longer be left as they are. Then there is the Income Tax, all unsettled, which the new Chancellor of the Exchequer so particularly objects to in its present form. Also there is Education; everybody crying out we must have it, nobody agreeing in what way. Also there is Sanitary Reform, about which what is done bears such infinitely inverse ratio to what has been talked about, that our very sewers continue still undrained, and our most crowded streets in polluting contact with the dead. Nor may the list be even closed (though our present enumeration may) with what remains of troublesome arrears in the war with the Caffres, the constitutions of New Zealand and the Cape, and the convict disputes in Australia and Sydney. Without naming even the name of that most unquiet portion of her Majesty's dominions which has been the stumbling-block of every administration for the last half-century, and is not in the least likely to be less obstructive now, it is sufficiently manifest that her Majesty's new advisers have not succeeded to the quiet repose of a sinecure, and that it is amid marked signs and portents of perplexity and change their predecessors have passed away.

Years after the present generation shall have passed away too, it is possible that these pages of ours may be sought by some antiquary, curious to learn in what state of the world it was that the last rump of veritable old Whiggery disappeared from the public scene, never again, in all human probability, to revisit it in that unadulterated form. He will then learn that the whole world appeared to be agitated just at that moment as with the throes of far more wonderful births than those of a new British Colonial Minister in a respectable chairman of Quarter Sessions, and a new British Chancellor of the Exchequer in a clever writer of romance.

That was the very month, Mr. Dryas-lust will ascertain, when, with no perceptible effect upon the business or enjoyments of the people, the sudden overflow of a huge reservoir swept away in one night the entire capital and enterprise of a flourishing manufacturing settlement in a Yorkshire valley. The better part of a million of money was lost, and more than a hundred lives; and there was an inquiry, and no one was found greatly to blame, and the mills were again built, and the reservoir again filled from the streams of the valley, and all was expected to go on as before. In that month too came news from the coast of Africa, that, at a sacrifice of near a hundred lives and an incalculable sum of money, the clever ex-minister who upset his colleagues because they had turned him out of Downing-street for snubbing and exasperating all the Foreign Powers, had managed, by way of counterpoise to those old allies he had affronted, to raise up a new ally for the English people in the person of one of the prodigious African princes who live in reed huts on pestilential swamps, and

are bribed into treaties against the slave-trade by rum and glass buttons. The name of the sovereign was King Akitoye the First. It was also in this same month that the press of France was effectually gagged and suppressed by the edict of an absolute dictator: and what, just twenty years before, had lost a throne to the rightful and long-descended king who attempted it, was now effected without an effort at resistance by a mere unprincipled adventurer, whose only claim of title to the power he had seized was his avowed contempt and disregard for enlightenment, literature, education, respectability, and the safe retention and enjoyment whether of private or public rights. Such at the time being the ruling influence in this great country, peradventure Mr. Dryasdust will make his friends smile by adding that he finds this also to have been the precise time selected by that very government of France to prefer its claim, as sovereign protector of Christianity in the East, to the exclusive possession of the Holy Sepulchre. His audience will doubtless get grave again, however, as the worthy man informs them of another sign and portent of the same memorable month, in the fact of a monk-assassin suddenly starting up, as though to confront with the ghastly form of a Clement or Ravallac a modern resuscitation of crimes in rulers as lamentable as those which in more barbarous days received barbarous expiation. He will read of an attempt, well-nigh successful, to stab to the heart a young queen and mother, surrounded by her nobles and officers of state; the assassin coolly avowing before his judges that he had lifted his knife to wash out the opprobrium of humanity, by avenging the stupid ignorance of those who thought it fidelity to endure the faithlessness and perjury of kings and queens. He will discover also that this was the month, when, with another kind of retribution, the jade Fortune at last fairly deserted the man who for many years, and in defiance of the joint efforts of two of the greatest countries in the world, had exerted an absolute and most cruel despotism over some of the noblest provinces of Spanish South America. As surely as the Whigs were retreating from the scene, and leaving free trade to the mercies of Lord Stanley, so surely will Mr. Dryasdust find that the dictator of Buenos Ayres was also disappearing from power, and leaving at least a more hopeful legacy to the prospects of free trade than those of the departing Whig premier, by ridding commerce and civilisation of the incubus which in his own person for so many years had shut up the magnificent resources of one of the grandest "silent highways" of the world.

Such being the portents of change and revolution amid which our Whig ministers depart, it will be hardly less manifest to the reader who glances through our pages, that it is amid omens prosperous and adverse which require not less wary watching, that the new ministers are entering the coveted mansions of Downing street. The importations of foreign corn have diminished; prices have advanced; the cattle fairs are prosperous; the greatest croakers make special exception of barley and oats; and finally there has been a meeting in Manchester, not only to show Lord Derby that vitality has in no respect departed from what was once the Anti-Corn-Law League, but to warn him in a friendly way that, before embarking on any enterprise of restoring that monopoly to which all the signs of the times are so notably adverse, he would do well to consider its probable effects on the position and interests of his order.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

THE Session of Parliament was opened by the Queen in person, on Tuesday, the 3rd inst. Unusual interest was attached to the ceremony from the circumstance that her Majesty had announced her intention of inaugurating the Victoria Tower, by making it the royal entrance to the houses of Parliament. The crowds in the streets were uncommonly large, and the attendance in the interior of the House of Lords was also greater than ordinary. After the customary formalities, her Majesty read the following speech:—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN:

"The period has arrived when, according to usage, I can again avail myself of your advice and assistance in the preparation and adoption of measures which the welfare of the country may require. I continue to maintain the most friendly relations with foreign powers. The complicated affairs of the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig have continued to engage my attention. I have every reason to expect that the treaty between Germany and Denmark, which was concluded at Berlin in the year before last, will, in a short time, be fully and completely executed. I regret that the war which unfortunately broke out on the eastern frontier of the Cape of Good Hope, more than a year ago, still continues. Papers will be laid before you containing full information as to the progress of the war, and the measures which have been taken for bringing it to a termination. While I have observed with sincere satisfaction the tranquillity which has prevailed throughout the greater portion of Ireland, it is with much regret that I have to inform you that certain parts of the counties of Armagh, Monaghan, and Louth, have been marked by the commission of outrages of the most serious description. The powers of the existing law have been promptly exerted for the detection of the offenders, and for the repression of a system of crime and violence fatal to the best interests of the country. My attention will continue to be directed to this important object.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

"I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the current year to be laid before you. I rely with confidence on your loyalty and zeal to make adequate provision for the public service. Where any increase has been made in the estimates of the present over the past year, such explanations will be given as will, I trust, satisfy you that such increase is consistent with a steady adherence to a pacific policy, and with the dictates of a wise economy.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN:

"The improvement in the administration of justice in its various departments has continued to receive my anxious attention, and in furtherance of that object I have directed bills to be prepared, founded upon the reports made to me by the respective commissioners appointed to inquire into the practice and proceedings of the superior courts of law and equity. As nothing tends more to the peace, prosperity, and contentment of a country than the speedy and impartial administration of justice, I earnestly recommend these measures to your deliberate attention. The act of 1848, for suspending the operation of a previous act conferring representative institutions on New Zealand, will expire early in the next year. I am happy to believe that there is no necessity for its renewal, and that no obstacle any longer exists to the enjoyment of representative institutions by New Zealand. The form of these institutions will, however, require your consideration, and the additional information which has been obtained since the passing of the acts in question will, I trust, enable you to arrive at a decision beneficial to that important colony. It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state to you that the large reductions of taxes which have taken place of late years have not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the national income. The revenue of the past year has been fully adequate to the demands of the public service, while the reduction of taxation has tended greatly to the relief and comfort of my subjects. I acknowledge with thankfulness to

Almighty God, that tranquillity, good order, and willing obedience to the laws continue to prevail generally throughout the country. It appears to me that it is a fitting time for calmly considering whether it may not be advisable to make such amendments in the act of the late reign relating to the representation of the commons in parliament, as may be deemed calculated to carry into more complete effect the principles upon which that law is founded. I have the fullest confidence that in any such consideration you will firmly adhere to the acknowledged principles of the constitution, by which the prerogatives of the crown, the authority of both houses of parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people, are equally secured."

The Earl of ALEMALE moved the *Address*; and it was seconded by Lord LEIGH.—The Earl of DERBY said that the subjects treated of in the royal speech were multifarious, and inconsequently strung together. He lamented the absence of all allusion to the condition of the agricultural interest. He then referred to the subject of papal aggression, which her Majesty's government had legislated for superficially and not substantially. He maintained that the act of last session had been ostentatiously set at defiance, and he invited the government to say whether they were satisfied with it. On the subject of friendly relations with foreign powers, he expressed a conviction that there must have been some serious cause which had induced her Majesty to dispense with the services of one of the most able servants of the crown. He was not bound by any official reserve from speaking openly on the subject of the relations of this country with France. It was not for them to canvass the morality or the acts of the French government, since it had been backed by the will of the people. He firmly believed that the Prince President was fully disposed to maintain friendly relations with this country, but if anything was likely to destroy that disposition, it was the unjustifiable tone assumed towards him by a large portion of the public press. He proceeded to point out the dangers and uncertainties of the state of public affairs in France, and the necessity of adopting such measures of defence as might make invasion impossible. He promised his co-operation, and that of those who acted with him, for such a purpose. He then, in a warning one, and from the example of France, vindicated the necessity of maintaining the territorial aristocracy of England—the best guarantee of constitutional government, and the surest conservators of a well-founded liberty. The noble earl then adverted to the question of the disastrous war at the Cape, which had been attended by many blunders. Turning to the subject of Ireland, he expressed his surprise that the government should have taken credit for the tranquillity of the south and west, which sprang from an emigration so vast as to be called the exodus of the Irish people. In the north, their administration of justice for the purpose of suppressing outrage had experienced a double failure. From Ireland the noble earl turned to the subject of the new constitution for New Zealand, and having disposed of that topic, he reminded their lordships that the financial prosperity of the country was founded on the unpopular income-tax, and that the past year was one of serious commercial losses, and low commercial profits. In conclusion, he expressed his conviction that there were not 500 reasonable men who considered a new reform bill necessary. The essential utility of the House of Commons was, that it appropriately represented all classes, that the large communities did not overpower the small, and he trusted that it was not intended to destroy the permanent influence of the land by increasing the already large democratic powers possessed by the great towns. If such was the principle of the new bill, he regarded it as a step in a dangerous direction, and would give it such opposition as lay in his power to offer.—Earl GREY went over several of the topics adverted to by Lord Derby. With reference to the state of agriculture, he thought that there was every reason to regard it hopefully; and those who conceived that the present policy should be reversed, ought, once for all, to bring their views forward for discussion, but first they ought to settle with their supporters whether it was a duty for protection or revenue that they wanted. As to papal aggression, he had never looked to acts of

parliament, but to the feelings and convictions of the mass of the people as our safest defence, but the act which had passed last year was not a dead letter. He concurred with the Earl of Derby in the tribute he had paid to the character and talents of the late Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and he regretted deeply that circumstances had deprived her Majesty's government of the benefit of his counsels. He entirely joined in repudiating the tone of the public press with reference to France. He confided in the amicable assurances received from foreign powers, but thought that something should be done to place the country in a state of greater security. As to the emigration from Ireland, it was a voluntary effort, which had only fulfilled his anticipations, and was carried on without expense to the country; and in a manner most honourable to the Irish character. He believed that Ireland would improve greatly under the process, but the security of life and property there must first be established. The noble earl defended, or rather apologised for, his colonial policy in New Zealand. He vindicated, also, the financial relaxations of recent years; and, with reference to the contemplated measure on the representation, he assured the house that the existing balance of political power among classes would not be disturbed.—Lord BROUGHAM expressed his concurrence in what had been said by the Earl of Derby and Earl Grey as to the tone of the press of this country in discussing the internal affairs of France, and the character and conduct of the Prince President.—The Earl of HARROWBY stated his impression that the public press had faithfully expressed the opinion of the country with reference to French affairs, and as an individual peer he could not omit that opportunity of saying that the newspapers had a perfect right to discuss openly and fearlessly the political and social condition of their nearest neighbours, as they did the state of Austria, Russia, or any other continental power.—The Earl of MALMESBURY closed the debate by adopting the same views on that subject as had been expressed by the Earl of Derby.

On Thursday the 5th, the Duke of WELLINGTON took occasion to express his *Approval of Sir Harry Smith's conduct while in command at the Cape*:—"I approve entirely," said the Duke, "of the conduct of the troops in all their operations. I am fully sensible of the difficulties under which they laboured, and of the gallantry with which they overcame all those difficulties, and of the great success which attended their exertions. My firm belief is that everything has been done by the commanding general, by the forces, and by his officers, in order to carry into execution the instructions of her Majesty's government. I have had the honour of holding the command of her Majesty's armies in India, and of superintending the conduct of different military operations in the same part of the world under three separate governors-general. I am proud to say that I have observed no serious error in the conduct of these late operations. Certainly Sir Harry Smith has committed some errors, as others have done before him. These operations by the Caffres are carried on by the occupation of extensive regions, which, in some places are called jungle, in others bush; but which in reality are thickest wood—the thickest that can be found anywhere. The Caffres having established themselves in these fastnesses with the plunder on which they exist, their assailants suffer great losses. The Caffres move away more or less with great activity and celerity, sometimes saving, sometimes losing their plunder; but they always evacuate their fastnesses. Our troops do not, cannot, occupy those fastnesses. They would be useless to them, and, in point of fact, the troops could not live in them. Well, the enemy moves off, and is attacked again, and the same operation is renewed time after time. The consequence of this, to my certain knowledge is, that under the three last governors some of these fastnesses have been attacked no less than three or four times over. On every occasion this is accompanied with great loss to the assailants. There is, however, a remedy for this state of evil. When a fastness is stormed it should be totally destroyed after its capture. I have had some experience in this kind of warfare, and I know that the only mode of subduing an enemy of this description is by opening roads into his

fastnesses for the movement of regular troops with the utmost rapidity. I have recommended to the noble earl opposite that that course should be adopted, and I believe that he has ordered it to be adopted. The only fault that I find with Sir Harry Smith is, that he has not adopted it."

On Friday the 6th, Earl GREY, in reply to questions from the Earl of Malmesbury, respecting the *Caffre War*, admitted that a practice had prevailed somewhat extensively of sending out gunpowder from this country to the Cape, where it had been purchased by the Caffres; but, on mature consideration, it had been deemed best to endeavour to arrest the traffic when it approached the colony, rather than attempt to check it from this country. An ordinance had been passed (but too late) by the legislative council at the Cape for intercepting the trade there; and the commodore on the African station had despatched one of the vessels under his command to prevent gunpowder from being landed on the west coast of Africa. There would be no difficulty in interrupting the traffic. It was to him quite incomprehensible, knowing the strong laws in existence at the Cape against the sale of gunpowder to the Caffres, that this trade had been allowed to go on so long. The commodore reported that the trade was now stopped; but during the last few months several hundred tons of powder had been landed along the western coast.—In reply to a further question, Earl GREY added that the instructions he had given extended to the prevention of the trade in arms as well as gunpowder intended for the enemy.—The Marquis of LONDONDERRY inquired whether the selection of General Cathcart to succeed Sir H. Smith in the command at the Cape had been approved at the Horse Guards?—Earl GREY replied that it was with the unanimous consent of his colleagues that he had advised her Majesty to relieve Sir H. Smith, and that he had consulted the Duke of Wellington as to the appointment of the officer who had succeeded him.

On Monday, the 9th, the LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the *Common Procedure Amendment Bill*, and explained at considerable length the alterations and improvements contemplated by the measure.—Lord LYNCHURST did not object to the second reading of the bill; but he could not understand, as the machinery of the county courts had worked so well, why the same machinery should not be applied to the superior courts in all cases not exceeding two or three hundred pounds.—Lord BROUGHTAM thought the best course would be to read the bill at once a second time. He also agreed in the suggestion of Lord Lynchurst as to the application of the county court machinery to the superior courts.

On Tuesday, the 10th, the Earl of ROSEN drew the attention of the house to the recent *Outrages in a part of Ireland*. Their lordships (he said) could have no conception of the reign of terror established in those districts. He asked whether her Majesty's government was acquainted with the extent of the distressing circumstances which he had just mentioned, and whether it was prepared to propose to the legislature any measures to meet the evils which existed, as the common law had been proved incompetent to meet them, and as a special commission, for the first time in Ireland, had failed of its object.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE assured Lord Rosen that the attention of the government had been directed to these outrages from their very commencement. No time had been lost in despatching to the districts in which they occurred an extra number of the police force, and afterwards a special commission, presided over by one of the ablest judges in the land. That that commission had been a total failure he was not, however, prepared to admit. It had been only unsuccessful, and now fresh measures were being prepared, from which he anticipated a happier result. Should these new measures be also unsuccessful, it would then be proper to submit extraordinary measures to parliament, but he trusted for the present that the government would not be needlessly pressed on the matter.

On Thursday, the 12th, Lord FITZWILLIAM brought forward the *Case of Mr. Mather*, who had been subjected to gross outrage at the hands of Austrian officers at Florence, and asked whether the statements pub-

lished in the newspapers were correct, and if so what course the government had thought fit to pursue with regard to the matter.—Lord GRANVILLE replied that the statements which had been published respecting the outrage on Mr. Mather were substantially correct, though there was a slight discrepancy between Mr. Mather's version of the affair and that made by the Austrian officers. As Mr. Mather, who seemed to have acted with a very proper feeling on the occasion, had appealed to the Tuscan tribunals, before which the matter was still pending, the information which he (Lord Granville) could afford the house was necessarily imperfect. As far, however, as he himself was concerned in his capacity as foreign minister, he had endeavoured to act with calmness and firmness, and he had no doubt that both the Tuscan and Austrian governments would not refuse ample reparation; and that they would act up to the principle, that when a nation was clearly in the wrong it ought not to be too proud to say so. For his own part, he was not ashamed, but proud to say, that, acting on that principle, the very first day after entering his present office he had made an apology to the United States for an unjustifiable act committed by a naval officer.

On Friday, the 13th, the Earl of MALMESBURY renewed the discussion upon the subject of the *Exportation of Gunpowder to the Cape and its Sale to the Caffres*, and moved for returns upon the subject.—Earl GREY repeated the explanations already given, and the returns were ordered after a few observations from Lord Montagu and the Earl of Ellenborough.

On Monday, the 16th, the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, in answer to questions by the Earl of Ellenborough respecting *East India Affairs*, said, that it was his intention on an early day to move for a select committee on the East Indian charter. Touching the expedition to Rangoon, he observed that it was sent in consequence of a report from Colonel Beaumont of two cases in which merchants had been accused of murder for the purposes of extortion. The King of Ava, on being informed of the circumstances, had at once removed the governor, and sent two officers to inquire into the amount of compensation due to the injured parties, nor was there any reason to doubt that this just course would be persevered in.

The Duke of MONTROSE called the attention of the house to the condition in which the vessel, the *Megara*, had been sent to sea with troops for the Cape. After some explanatory statements by the Earl of Minto, which were objected to by Lord Colchester and the Earl of Ellenborough, returns were ordered, to show the capacities of the *Megara*, and the number of troops and quantity of stores shipped in her.

On Tuesday, the 17th, Lord CLANCARTY presented himself to take, instead of the oath of Supremacy administered to Protestants, which he could not conscientiously take, the *Oath prescribed for Roman Catholics*, which he conceives to be unobjectionable, provided he might legally do so as a member of the reformed part of the Catholic Church established by law in this land.—Lord CAMPBELL, the LORD CHANCELLOR, and Lord BROUGHTAM having expressed their opinion that the proposal could not be entertained, the Earl of CLANCARTY stated his willingness to take it *secundum sensum inponentis*, if the house would give an authoritative exposition of it.—Lord CAMPBELL and Lord BROUGHTAM thought an authoritative exposition of the oath could only be given by bill.—In answer to the Duke of WELLINGTON, the Earl of CLANCARTY stated that he had never been sworn in the present Parliament, on which the Noble Duke observed that his addressing the house at all was most irregular.—Lord CAMPBELL gave it as his opinion that all the oath intended was to deny the legal power of the Pope.—The Earl of WICKLOW said the oath required to be taken with a mental reservation, and there was no clause in it, as in the abjuration oath, to prevent its being so taken.—The LORD CHANCELLOR agreed in the opinion expressed by Lord Campbell.—The Earl of Clancarty then withdrew.

The Earl of ROSEN, in moving for certain returns relating to the *Disturbances in Ireland*, referred to a series of resolutions adopted by the magistrates of the

counties of Louth, Down, Monaghan, and Armagh, in proof of the increase of crime and outrage since the failure of the Monaghan Commission, and insisted on the necessity of some measures being taken to arrest the progress of the Ribbon conspiracy.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE admitted the importance of the subject, and after some observations from the Earls of WICKLOW and GLENGALL, the returns were ordered.

VISCOUNT CANNING moved for the production of the papers connected with the *Attack upon Lagos*, to which Earl GRANVILLE acceded, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH remarking on the singular fact that after fighting on the 23d and 24th, the officers suddenly suspended hostilities on Christmas Day, a circumstance to which he attributed the loss of life which had ensued.

The House having gone into committee on the *County Courts Extension Bill*, the LORD CHANCELLOR moved the omission of the clause enabling barristers to appear without the intervention of attorneys.—Lord BROUGHAM defended the clause.—Lord CAMPBELL supported the objection of the LORD CHANCELLOR, and after some further discussion between his lordship and Lord BROUGHAM, the clause was struck out of the bill.

On Thursday the 19th, on the motion, that the report on the *County Courts Further Extension Bill* be received, Lord LYNDEHURST called attention to the fact, that according to the decision of the county court judges, since confirmed by the superior courts, a suitor who recovered the amount of his claim and the 15s. costs allowed by the act, might be called upon to pay to his own attorney a bill for expenses incurred out of court, exceeding the amount of his claim, the payment of which, according to the rule of the superior courts, would in such a case fall upon a defendant; in illustration of which the noble lord mentioned a case in which a tradesman, after recovering a debt of 5*l.* with 15s. costs, had to pay his attorney a bill for expenses out of court, which, when taxed, amounted to 1*l.* 4s.—After a conversation between Lord Brougham, Lord Lyndhurst, and Lord Campbell, from which it appeared that the decision in the courts of Westminster was in conformity with the wording of the county courts act, the Earl of DERBY observed, that as it was clear that the costs of a suit in the county court might be as considerable as those in a superior court, and as the successful suitor in the court was now liable to pay expenses which in the superior court would fall upon the defendant, it was clear that in extending the jurisdiction of the county courts it was fitting that a remedy for this acknowledged evil should be provided.—Some further discussion ensued, in which, besides the noble lords already mentioned, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Lord Cranworth, Earl Fitzwilliam, and Earl Grey took part, and which ended in the further consideration of the report being adjourned till Tuesday next.

On Friday the 20th, a conversation took place between the Earl of Minto and Lord Redesdale, respecting the *Mejera*, from which it appeared that the master had put to sea without a sufficient supply of provisions, in the hope of completing it on cheaper terms at Plymouth.

Monday 23d. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE announced the *Resignation of Ministers*, and the formation of a new ministry under the Earl of Derby. The noble marquis said he had no wish to throw any impediments in the way of the noble earl, especially as the experience of the past year had convinced him that the retention of office by a government which could not command a sufficient amount of support was a positive evil. Having said so much, he might stop; but as he felt that the time had now arrived when it was improbable that he should ever again address the house from that bench, and when he might reasonably dispense with a compulsory attendance on the proceedings of the house, he could not sit down without thanking his friends, personal and political, and the house at large, for the cordiality and courtesy with which he had always been treated. It had ever been his wish to see the proceedings of that house characterised by a spirit of moderation and an absence of all acrimonious feeling—qualities which were essential to the dignity of the house, and to the maintenance of that authority which it derived

from the constitution, and of which no sane portion of the community wished it should be deprived. The noble marquis concluded a very graceful and dignified speech, which was cheered from both sides of the house, by moving that the house on its rising should adjourn till Friday next. The house adjourned accordingly.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., the *Address* in reply to Her Majesty's speech was moved by Sir R. William Bulkeley, and seconded by Mr. Bonham Carter. Sir B. Hall asked Lord John Russell for an explanation of the recent changes in the *Administration of Foreign Affairs*. Lord John RUSSELL entered into this explanation. He began by describing what he conceived to be the relative positions of a prime minister and a foreign secretary, taking the definition of the former from the evidence of Sir Robert Peel before the committee on salaries; and then stated, that in August, 1850, a letter had been written to Lord Palmerston, in the following terms:—

"The Queen requires, first, that Lord Palmerston will distinctly state what he proposes in a given case, in order that the Queen may know as distinctly to what she is giving her royal sanction. Secondly, having once given her sanction to a measure, that it be not arbitrarily altered or modified by the minister. Such an act she must consider as failing in sincerity towards the crown, and justly to be visited by the exercise of her constitutional right of dismissing that minister. She expects to be kept informed of what passes between him and the foreign ministers before important decisions are taken based upon that intercourse; to receive the foreign despatches in good time; and to have the drafts for her approval sent to her in sufficient time to make herself acquainted with their contents before they must be sent off. The Queen thinks it best that Lord John Russell should show this letter to Lord Palmerston."

He then stated certain events of last autumn, and said that there had been a cabinet meeting on the 3rd of November, at which it was agreed that the state of Europe was very critical, and that it behoved England to preserve the strictest neutrality. Yet, a short time afterwards, Lord Palmerston received deputations with addresses, in which the most disrespectful language was applied to the sovereigns of foreign nations. But though in this matter Lord Palmerston had not exercised due caution, he (Lord John Russell) had been willing to consider it an inadvertence, and to take his share of the responsibility. Lord John Russell then proceeded to the circumstances which were the immediate cause of Lord Palmerston's dismissal. A cabinet council had been held on the 3rd of December last, in reference to Lord Normanby's application for instructions on the Parisian crisis, when it was agreed that Lord Normanby had only to abstain from all interference, and Lord Palmerston, on the 5th, sent off a despatch correctly expressing the opinion of the government. A few days afterwards, Lord Normanby wrote to Lord Palmerston to say that he had communicated his despatch to the French foreign minister, who had informed him that two days before Lord Palmerston had signified to Count Walewski his entire approbation of the *coup d'état*, and had said that there was no other course open to Louis Napoleon. He (Lord John Russell) wrote to Lord Palmerston for an explanation; conceiving that if England, through her foreign secretary, pronounced an opinion of that kind, it could no longer be said that we abstained from any appearance of interference in favour of the course pursued by the president. "Some days," said Lord John Russell, "elapsed before I heard anything more on this head, not having had any communication from my noble friend, of any kind, relating to these affairs. But on the 13th of December a messenger arrived at Woburn, bringing a communication from her Majesty to me, making inquiry with respect to this same despatch, expressing incredulity at such an intimation of opinion, but asking for explanations as to the real state of the circumstances. The next morning I sent a messenger off, and he must have arrived in London on the 14th of December. I received no answer on that day. On the 15th I received no answer whatever. On the 16th I wrote a note by the early post, expressing my opinion that such a silence was not respectful to her Majesty, and asking for an answer. However, neither on the 15th nor the 16th did any communication reach me. The same extraordinary silence

was observed. The inquiry of the queen, as to what was the meaning of the alleged conversation between her foreign secretary and the ambassador of a foreign country, was left entirely unnoticed. I own I was greatly surprised at such a state of things; but on the morning of the 17th I received copies of despatches, one of which had been received and the other had been sent. The first was from Lord Normanby to Lord Palmerston, dated Paris, December the 16th, and received on the 17th. Now, although no answer had been given to me, and although I was unable to satisfy the inquiries which were made by my sovereign, it appears that Lord Palmerston, on the 17th, the day on which this despatch was received, wrote of his own authority a despatch, which he sent to Paris, and which had not obtained my concurrence, nor the concurrence of my colleagues. Lord Palmerston (pursued Lord J. Russell) had, in this despatch, evaded the real question at issue. The foreign secretary had chosen to put himself in the place of the crown, and to pass by and neglect the crown, although a secretary of state had no constitutional authority whatever. Another question had arisen, which had been one of delicacy. The act of the French President had not only dissolved the assembly, but abolished the constitution, and fettered the press. This might be desirable or not, but this was a matter for the French alone. It was not for an English minister to place the broad seal of England on such acts. We had been showing sympathy to various nations, for many years, in their attempts to obtain constitutions—how could we take that course after expressing approbation of what had been done in France? Under all circumstances, he had come to the conclusion, that he could not continue to act with Lord Palmerston. The latter had at last addressed to him a long letter, giving his reasons for advocating the cause of the president, but these reasons did not seem to Lord John to touch the question. He had, therefore, on the 20th, written to her Majesty, advising that Lord Palmerston be required to resign. He had consulted none of his colleagues in that step, feeling that the responsibility ought to remain with himself alone, but at a cabinet council on the 22nd they decided that he could have taken no other course. Lord John Russell then entered upon continental affairs, and, in reference to France, declared his own opinion that though it was not for us to act as Austria and Russia had done in regard to the president, still he had no hesitation in saying that no doubt the president had acted from the best sources of information, and had done what from his knowledge of the question he thought best for France. He proceeded to condemn the severe language the English press had used against Louis Napoleon, and reminded the house that such language by the press of former days had goaded the First Consul into war; but he thought this was not probable on that account, because the President of France well understood that the press of England did not necessarily convey the feelings of the government or of the nation. He was opposed to alarmist doctrines, and did not believe that two of the greatest nations of the earth were going to butcher one another. Alluding to the hospitality we had for so many years shown to refugees of every nation, he trusted we should never forget this obligation, but he hoped we should remember it without increasing other nations, or increasing our own armaments.—Lord PALMERSTON replied to the statement of Lord John Russell. Referring to the incident of the deputation, he said that he had thought it his duty to receive it, but had scarcely thought his answer would have been made a matter of public importance; but there was nothing in that answer which he had not said in his place in that house, and though he had regretted expressions in the addresses in question, he did not think there was anything in that affair to impair our foreign relations. Adverting to the incidents of the *coup d'état*, he said, that “he had, in conversation with the French ambassador, uttered precisely the sentiments which appeared in the despatch Lord J. Russell had read. But when Lord Normanby applied for instructions, there could be, of course, but one answer consistently with our habitual policy. Lord Normanby thought it necessary to communicate this to the French

minister. The latter said that two days before he had received a communication, which he described, however, in highly-coloured words. Lord J. Russell had written for explanation, and he (Lord Palmerston) had, being much pressed by business, delayed his reply until he could write fully, which he did on the evening of the 16th of December. My answer (said Lord Palmerston) was, that the opinions, the words quoted by Lord Normanby, gave a colouring to anything that I could have said in conversation with the French ambassador, but that my opinion was, and that was the opinion that no doubt I had expressed, that there had been for some time such an antagonism arising between the president on the one side, and the assembly on the other, that their long co-existence had become impossible, and that it was my opinion if one or the other was to prevail, that it was better for the French that the president should prevail than that the assembly should prevail. The assembly had nothing as a substitute for the president, except what would lead to civil war; but the president, on the other hand, had to offer unity of purpose and unity of authority. This opinion was expressed on the 3rd, the day after the *coup d'état*. I will not trouble the house with all the arguments that I used in my letter or the illustrations which it contained. To that letter my noble friend replied that after that letter he had come to the reluctant conclusion that it was not consistent with the interest of the country that the general management of foreign affairs should any longer remain in my hands. He said that the question between us was not whether the president was justified or not in what he had done, but whether I was justified or not in having expressed an opinion upon the subject. To that I replied that there was a well known and perfectly understood distinction between conversations which are official, and by which governments are bound, and representing the opinion of governments, and unofficial conversations which do not bind governments, and in which the speakers are not expressing the opinions of government, but the opinions which they themselves have. I said that I had said nothing in my conversation with Count Walewski, which could in the slightest degree ever affect her Majesty's government. I said, if the doctrine of the noble lord were to be established, that the foreign secretary was to be precluded from expressing on passing events any opinion to a foreign minister, except in the capacity of the organ of a previously concerted cabinet, that there would be an end of all that easy and familiar intercourse between secretaries of state and foreign ministers which led so greatly to the maintenance of good understandings and the facilitating of public business.” Lord Palmerston proceeded to say, that his opinion, objected to by Lord John Russell, was expressed on the 3rd December; and the same evening, under the same roof, Lord John Russell expressed his opinion to the same individual, and, judging by what had fallen from Lord John Russell that night, it was probable that his opinion was the same as Lord Palmerston's. And on the following Friday each of the other ministers seemed to have expressed an opinion upon the very subject which Lord Palmerston was told he must not express an opinion on. So every minister, except the only one who had studied foreign questions, was to be free to pronounce upon them. And as to the despatch to Lord Normanby, was it to be laid down as a rule that on no occasion was a foreign minister to send a despatch on his own discretion, without being charged with breach of duty to the crown and the prime minister? He had certainly often adhered to that rule, to the damage of his own character for punctuality in matters of business; but was such a rule to be pushed to absurdity? It was an unfair misrepresentation to say that in his despatch to Lord Normanby he had given any instructions, or spoken in the name of England. He had done no such thing. Lord John Russell had therefore written to the Queen to remove him (Lord Palmerston) for doing precisely what every other member of the government had done. Lord Palmerston concluded by saying that he fully concurred in the policy which Lord John Russell had declared should be ours, and that he had been proud to be, as Lord John had once described him, the minister not of

France, or Austria, or Russia, but of England. In doing his duty in that position, it was impossible he should always avoid giving offence, but he had succeeded in leaving the country at peace with other nations, and without even a subject of dispute with any of them.—Desultory observations on a number of topics were made by Mr. Muntz, Mr. Baillie, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Lord D. Stuart, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Roebuck, and other members.—Mr. DISRAELI said he did not think Sir B. Hall had succeeded in eliciting much information that could be said to account for the important act which had occasioned his inquiry. The House ought to express its opinion on the displacement of Lord Palmerston, whom, though he had opposed his policy, he (Mr. Disraeli) had always regarded as a faithful British minister. He had always believed that policy would lead to mischief and inconvenience; but if it were to be still pursued, and he understood that such was the case, why was it not to be pursued under the guidance of the ablest man upon the other side of the house? Remarkable upon the frequent and unnecessary introduction of the sovereign's name by Lord John Russell into the night's debate, he expressed his astonishment at the narration of "midnight despatches." He seemed to have sought to shift off his own responsibility upon his sovereign. Proceeding to canvas the various paragraphs in the speech (of which he remarked that there were fifteen, each apparently contributed by one of the fifteen ministers), he denied that this was a fitting time for reform, and while undertaking to give the new measure a fair consideration, deprecated its being put forward as a plea for neglecting other and more important matters. The Caffre war, for instance, must be considered; and so must the policy which had destroyed our ancient colonial empire, and which made him wish that while getting rid of one secretary, they had got rid of another also. After an animated reference to Lord John Russell's language last session, on the popish aggression question, he asked what had become of the act which had been introduced with so much pretension? Why was nothing said in the speech about this triumphant effort to crush this conspiracy against the protestant faith? This act had been treated with the utmost contempt;—why were we not told whether other measures were to be tried?—Lord J. RUSSELL said a few words in reference to Lord Palmerston's speech, observing that his own statements had been borne out, and that Lord Palmerston's were but a reflex of his own. In reply to Mr. Disraeli, he denied that the aggression act had been treated with contempt, and said that the law authorities had informed him that even in Ireland it had not been violated. It was no violation of the act, he remarked, for other persons to give the Catholic hierarchy the objectionable titles. He was quite ready to leave the merits of the ministry to the decision of the house.

On Wednesday, the 4th, and Thursday, the 5th, the proceedings were of a routine character, and unimportant.

On Friday, the 5th, Lord J. RUSSELL, having been interrogated by Lord D. Stuart, stated that the accounts in the newspapers of the *outrage recently perpetrated by an Austrian officer, on Mr. Mather, a British subject, at Florence*, were correct, and in the main agreed with the account of the Austrian authorities, who, in the first instance, justified it on the ground that it was the rule in the Austrian army for any officer who received insult, while in the command of troops, to cut the offending party down. It was now admitted that no insult was intended, but reparation was refused unless Mr. Mather, in the first place, said he did not mean to insult, which he declined to do.—Lord GRANVILLE, on reading the account of the outrage, had instructed Mr. Scarlett to make inquiries, and call for satisfaction; and, on the demand of Mr. Mather, a judicial inquiry was now pending.

Mr. M. GIBSON asked a question as to the intentions of the government, in consequence of the Court of Inland Revenue not agreeing with the decision of the Court of Exchequer as to the *Liability of Periodical Publications published at intervals of 28 days and upwards, to the Newspaper Stamp Duty*. He wished to ascertain whether further prosecutions were to be instituted, or whether any bill was to be introduced to dispel all doubts

on the subject of the newspaper stamp act.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER declined answering a question which involved important legal points; but he might say that he had not the slightest intention of proposing to take steps to reverse the decision of the Court of Exchequer, whatever doubts he might entertain on the subject.—Lord J. RUSSELL added, that there were some doubtful points in the judgment which were under the consideration of the law officers, and until their opinion was received, no answer could be given as to the intentions of government.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved for leave to bring in a bill for the *Relief of Suitors in the Court of Chancery*. The bill in question was founded, he said, on the report of the parliamentary committee, and would be followed by another bill of a still more efficient character. Briefly describing the vexatious and oppressive system of fees, as exposed by the report, he stated that the bill proposed to abolish all fees except such as were absolutely necessary, to pay all the chancery officers by salaries, and to provide that the fees excepted should be paid as stamp duties. Further, the suitors in chancery were to be relieved from the payment of the salaries of the chancellor and the other chancery judges, and these expenses were to be charged on the consolidated fund. The compulsory taking of "office copies" was to be abolished, as were various useless and obsolete offices. The accountant-general's income was to be materially reduced, and no part of it in future to be derived from sharing commission with the chancery broker. The total saving to be effected by all these means, he stated in round numbers at 100,000*l.* per annum. He added, that though in this bill there was no reference to the master's office, the object of the legislation still in view was the entire abolition of that establishment; and he concluded by declaring that a complete change in the system of chancery was now commencing, and one which would render that court a tribunal of efficient relief. He pledged himself that there should be no unnecessary delay in urging forward the measure.—Leave was given to bring in the bill.

Lord SEYMOUR moved for leave to bring in a bill for the *Better Supply of Water in the Metropolis*, the object of which was three-fold—first, to obtain a sufficient supply of water; secondly, to insure good water; and, thirdly, to insure the supply at a cheap rate.—Mr. MOWATT thought the control over both drainage and water supply should be vested in the rate-payers, and asked leave to bring in a bill for dividing the metropolis into seventeen districts, to be represented by commissioners, who, with four additional commissioners, appointed by the government, should form a general board, with power to fix the rates, and to regulate the supply, the present water companies being extinguished upon a plan of fair compensation.—Lord EBRINGTON was surprised to find the government resisting the principle of competition in the supply of water; neither was he disposed to entrust to a commission the power of regulating the supply of water to the metropolis.—Sir G. GREY said, the noble lord condemned both bills, but had suggested no plan of his own. The bill would have to go before a select committee; and he could assure the house that the government was most anxious to have the supply of water put upon a satisfactory footing.—Leave was given to bring in both bills.

Mr. B. OSBORNE moved that *Dr. Reid be called to the bar of the House, to be examined with regard to its Ventilation*. A long discussion ensued, in which Mr. Hume, Lord John Russell, Mr. Brown, Mr. Newdegate, and Mr. Seobell took part; and, on Mr. MOIRAT moving, as an amendment, that the subject be referred to a select committee, the house divided, when the numbers were—For the amendment, 24; against it, 55. The original motion having been carried, Dr. Reid was called in and examined at the bar. He said he had done all a man under constant compulsion could do to procure better ventilation for the house. With open doors in every direction, it was impossible to regulate the atmosphere properly. Without at all interfering with the architecture of the house, he would undertake to remedy the principal defects in two days, at an expense of from 200*l.* to 300*l.* He had suggested the remedies now proposed before the house was built; but

although they had been adopted to some extent, many changes had since been introduced. Dr. Reid was then ordered to withdraw; and after a desultory conversation, it was agreed that the subject should be further considered on the following Wednesday.

On Monday, the 9th, Lord John RUSSELL moved for leave to bring in a Bill to *Extend the Right of Voting for Members of Parliament, and to Amend the Laws Relating to the Representation of the People*. After stating his reasons for bringing forward this measure at the present time, and after taking a historical retrospect of the previous measures of reform proposed, from that of Mr. Pitt, in 1781, down to the Reform Bill of 1832, Lord John proceeded to explain the nature and provisions of the measure now proposed. It would be unwise (he said) and destroy the balance of the constitution, if the representation were confined to the counties and large towns. He saw no reason for absolute disfranchisement in the case of the small boroughs. It was only proposed to disfranchise those boroughs where there was proof of corruption, to be ascertained by means of a commission similar to that appointed in the St. Alban's case. It would be for the house to consider whether the hiatus in the representation occasioned by the disfranchisement of boroughs under such circumstances, should not be filled up as he now proposed in the case of Sudbury and St. Alban's, by giving the vacant seats to populous and growing towns like Birkenhead and Burnley. Holding that Parliament was correct in 1831, in placing the right of voting on household suffrage at a 10*l*. qualification, he thought the time had come when it might safely be lowered. He proposed to substitute a rated value of 5*l*. in boroughs for the existing 10*l*. franchise. In point of numbers he calculated that the proportion of occupiers between 5*l*. and 10*l*. as compared with those of 10*l*. and upwards, was about six to ten. The proposed change, therefore, would add materially to the number of voters in boroughs. He proposed to maintain the distinction between the county and the borough franchise established by the reform act. The 4*l*s. freehold franchise would not be disturbed; but with regard to the occupation franchise, he thought the same qualification which entitled a man to sit on juries might safely be taken as that which should give the right to vote for members of parliament; and, accordingly, he proposed to reduce the occupation franchise in counties from 50*l*. to 20*l*. rated value; and with regard to copyhold tenures and long leaseholds, the qualification was to be reduced from 10*l*. to 5*l*. Besides these, it was proposed to give a new right of voting indiscriminately to persons residing either in counties or boroughs—those residing without the limits of the borough to vote for the county, and those within, for the borough—that was, the right for all persons to vote who paid direct taxes in the shape of assessed or income-tax, to the amount of 40*s*. a year. Such new qualification, however, was not to extend to persons who paid merely for licenses. This would obviate the objection frequently and reasonably urged, that while persons holding freehold or leasehold property, and even mere occupying tenants had the right of voting, a large class of educated men, possessing property, and every qualification for the exercise of the franchise, had not that right. With regard to the small boroughs, he thought on principle they should be maintained. He did not find, although there was now an outcry against them, that Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, or any other statesman who had propounded or supported plans of parliamentary reform, had ever suggested the total destruction of the small boroughs. It was a mistake to suppose that all these boroughs were infected with corruption more than some of the larger constituencies. In many of them elections were conducted with purity; but as with regard to some, it was said with truth, that the influence of property controlled the elections, and, as it was desirable that that reproach should be removed, he proposed, where such influence prevailed, to extend the constituencies by adding neighbouring towns in the same or the adjoining county. In bringing forward the reform act, he had stated that no electoral borough under that act would have less than 300 voters, and while that was the case generally, it appeared that fourteen had less than that number, about thirty more had less than 400, and

several others less than 500. He proposed to abide by that standard of 500, and to add places in the neighbourhood to those which had less, in order to make up that number. The number of boroughs to which this principle would apply in England and Wales would be sixty-seven. These small boroughs (except some few in Yorkshire) being in the southern and western counties, were principally in agricultural districts, and the places it was proposed to add to them being of the same character, of course the balance of interests established by the reform bill would be preserved, the object being not to interfere with those interests, but to leave them as they were. He further proposed that the property qualification should be abolished; so that in future the English and Irish members would in this respect be placed on a footing of equality with those of Scotland. Another subject he proposed to deal with in the bill—a ter the necessary resolution of the house on the subject should be passed—was the oaths taken by members. In the new form of oath he proposed the words “on the true faith of a Christian” should be omitted—words which had never been introduced to confine the right of sitting in parliament to Christians, but for a totally different purpose. The oath he would suggest was a simple one, which all members could take alike, merely binding them to allegiance to the throne, and fidelity to the succession. There would be one other clause in the bill, in regard to members accepting offices under the crown. At present, not only when the member first accepted office, but when he changed office, his seat became vacant. He did not propose to alter the law as regarded members accepting office for the first time, but he thought that when a member who held one office merely changed to another, under the same administration, there should be no necessity for a re-election; and to this extent he proposed to effect an alteration. With regard to Ireland it was not proposed to make any alteration in respect, to the county franchise. But with regard to the city and borough franchise the qualification would be reduced from 8*l*. to 5*l*., it having been found that the 8*l*. franchise greatly restricted the number of voters in Ireland. The very small number on the lists of some of the boroughs had disposed government to reconsider the question placed before the house when the Irish bill was before it—viz., whether, with regard to some of those boroughs, it was not advisable to add the neighbouring towns and thereby secure larger and more independent constituencies. Lord John concluded as follows:—“I trust that when this enlarged franchise is given, we shall next see the government of this country, in whosoever hands it be, consider most seriously and earnestly the great question of the education of the people. This question of the franchise is not alien from that other one of providing that the instruction, the education of the people, should be in a better state than it now is. I am convinced, that if after a measure of this kind, in another session of parliament, this house shall consider the means of establishing a really national system of education, they will confer one of the greatest blessings which can be conferred upon this country; a measure for which, I believe, the people are now almost prepared; and which, after further discussion, I do trust might be carried with very nearly a general assent. I do not propose now, however, to enter further into this subject. I have stated the general provisions of the bill that I propose to introduce; and I rejoice that in this time of quiet and tranquillity we can fairly consider that we are not acting under compulsion of any sort, that we are not obliged by any clamour to introduce this measure, but that we do it in the humble and earnest hope that we may contribute something to the power and the glory of our country.”—Mr. HUME thought the bill might do some good, but it would not meet the expectations of the people. He complained of the omission of the ballot and triennial parliaments.—Sir J. WALSH saw no grounds for reopening a question which, it was understood, had been finally settled one-and-twenty years ago.—Sir R. INGLIS complained that Lord John Russell had introduced into his reform bill questions of a religious character, such as the admission of Jews to parliament. With regard to the extension of the suffrage, he did not dread

it so much as formerly, since he had seen the utter failure of universal suffrage in a neighbouring country. He objected to the abolition of the property qualification, as introducing a further democratic element into the constitution, and separating to a still greater extent power from property.—Mr. BRIGHT objected to the omission of the ballot. He saw no reasons for lowering the county franchise to 20*l*., which did not apply with equal force in favour of carrying the reduction to 10*l*. What reason was there for saying that the man who occupied a 10*l*. house in the country was not as intelligent and as respectable as the man who lived in a 5*l*. house in a borough? The noble lord had talked about maintaining the balance of interests, but the preponderance of the representatives of the land and opponents of the settled question of free trade, which he supposed he meant, was not a balance of interests, but merely a dead lock to the government. He wanted to know why such places as Thetford and Harwich should send two members, while such boroughs as Manchester, Finsbury, or Westminster sent no more? A settlement on such a basis could not be permanent, nor ought it to be so. He urged Lord John Russell to consider the propriety of withdrawing the members from those small boroughs he proposed to enlarge, and apportioning them to the large constituencies, or to new constituencies raised from more populous districts. On the subject of oaths, he thought it would be far better to abolish them altogether, substituting, if necessary, a simple declaration.—Further observations were made by Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Roche, Mr. Trelawney, Sir John Tyrell, Mr. Disraeli, Sir G. Grey, Sir B. Hall, and others; after which leave was given to bring in the bill.

On Tuesday, the 10th, Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD moved for leave to bring in a bill for securing the Ulster custom of *Tenant Right*, or compensation to improving tenants, and to limit the power of eviction. He stated, that the measure he now proposed was substantially that which he brought in last year. It was avowedly for the protection of tenants, but it included justice to landlords: it extended to Ireland the English principle that the consent of the landlord to improvements was not to be a condition precedent to the tenant's right for compensation.—Sir George GREY consented to the introduction of the bill—in deference to its author's motives, and long consideration of the subject; but he hinted that it would be stopped at the second reading. Sir George ascribed the unfortunate condition of Ireland not to a desire of compensation for improvements, but to a combination, by force, intimidation, and terror, to reduce rents. Government (he said) will ask no new powers, but put forth the strong arm of the existing law, with strictness and severity.—Mr. Sadleir and Mr. E. B. Roche having asked of the government to step forward and redeem the royal pledges to legislate on the unsatisfactory state of the relations between landlord and tenant,—Lord JOHN RUSSELL made a defensive statement. The government had introduced a bill—a bill which was settled by a committee on which were Sir William Somerville, Mr. Sadleir, and other gentlemen of experience; but Lord John had found, on a conference with the opponents of the bill, that if it were passed into law, the first thing they would do would be to get up meetings and raise a flame against it in Ireland: therefore, considering how government propositions were opposed, and considering what extravagant propositions were advanced by the opponents of the government proposals, Lord John had decided to relinquish his bill. The notions of the opponents of the government bill were inconsistent with the rights of private property; and the subject was so beset with a thousand difficulties, in a country where, as in Ireland, litigation is a sort of pastime, that he had resolved to bring in no further measure on the subject.—Mr. KEOGH severely criticised this extraordinary statement by Lord John Russell of his motives for disappointing the just expectations which his own public declarations and acts had encouraged in Ireland.—Mr. BRIGHT suggested, that the source of difficulty in the way of government legislation is the fears of the large Irish proprietors in the cabinet: “can the cats wisely and judiciously legislate for the mice?”—Leave given to bring in the bill.

On Thursday, the 12th, the *New Reform Bill* was read a first time. The *Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill* was also brought in, and passed through the same stage.

The subject of the *Preserved Meats for the Navy* was brought forward by Sir W. JOLIFFE, who demanded a select committee to inquire into the government contracts with Mr. Goldner. This was assented to by Sir Francis BARING, on the part of the government. The Admiralty defence was repeated, with additional explanations. The substance of the defence was, that the meats were introduced to the navy very slowly and guardedly; that the contracts with Mr. Goldner were well fulfilled for the first years; that his contracts are not the only ones under which defective meats have been received; and that in fact the state of science is not such that any preserved meats can be unreservedly relied on. But the preserved stores supplied to the Arctic expedition were made of picked meats supplied by the Admiralty itself, under the late administration, and were made during the period when the best results were obtained: it is confidently trusted that *those* have remained good. Sir Francis Baring proposed that the period of inquiry should reach back to 1840, so as to include the case of the Arctic meats, and should include English meats as well as the foreign meats, to which Sir William Joliffe, with protectionist sympathies [as hinted] had confined it. With these extensions, the motion for a select committee was agreed to *nem. con.*

On Friday, the 13th, Mr. LABOUCHERE moved for leave to bring in a bill to carry into effect certain provisions contained in the *Copyright Treaty with France*. He said that it was only recently that negotiations with France had been brought to a satisfactory termination. The proposed bill was an extension, in regard to France, of the act of 1844. The only new principle it enunciated was the recognition of a copyright in translations, a point which had been strongly urged by the French diplomatists, and which it had been deemed just to concede. At the same time, a translation could not properly be placed upon the same basis as an original work. It was therefore proposed to give a copyright protection of five years to an authorised translation of a French work, under certain conditions, as to announcement of the authority, and publication of such translation within a specified time. The other details of the bill he thought would be best explained at a later stage.—Lord MAHON considered that the thanks of all literary men were due to the government for this bill, and also to Lord Palmerston, during whose tenure of office the treaty in question had been negotiated. It had been the conviction of the present Justice Talfourd, when carrying his measure on copyright, that it would not be complete until an international law of the same character should be established. He was, however, anxious to know whether the important question of copyright in Belgium and the United States were in course of negotiation?—Mr. LABOUCHERE replied in the negative, but said as soon as the law regarding France should be complete, it was intended to send it to the governments of other nations, as a basis for negotiations.—Leave was given to bring in the bill.

The Lord Advocate obtained leave to bring in the *New Reform Act for Scotland*. In its leading features it closely resembled the English bill, it being intended to reduce the amount which qualifies Scotch county voters from 10*l*. to 5*l*. as regarded proprietors and long leaseholders, and from 50*l*. to 20*l*. as regarded occupiers. And in boroughs the 10*l*. franchise was to be reduced to 5*l*., and the right of voting conferred upon all who paid 4*s*. in direct taxation.

Sir W. SOMERVILLE obtained leave to bring in the *New Reform Bill for Ireland*. He referred to the very recent legislation which had taken place upon the subject of the representation in Ireland, and said that as that legislation had so largely increased the county constituency (from 25,000 to 135,000) there would be no further interference with the county voters. But as the number of borough electors had actually been diminished, it was proposed to reduce the borough franchise from 8*l*. to 5*l*. And it was further designed to adopt the same course with Irish as with English boroughs where the electoral population was small, namely, the

associating them with other districts, such course to be adopted in Ireland where the number of electors now on the registry did not exceed 400.

On Monday, the 16th, the house having gone into committee on the *Local Militia Acts*, Lord JOHN RUSSELL explained his proposed measure. The treaty engagements of this country (he said) might involve her in war; the chances of an invasion were greatly increased by steam navigation; and the military establishments of this country were kept very far below those of other countries; nor was it intended to increase them by more than 4000 men of the line and 1000 of artillery, at the same time that everything was being done at this moment to render the existing force thoroughly efficient. The proposal was for a local militia on the plan adopted in 1808 and improved in 1812, with some modifications; two-thirds of the officers to be appointed by the lord-lieutenants, and one-third by the crown; the age at which persons should be liable to the ballot to be between twenty and twenty-three years, which, at the rate of one in five, would give about 80,000 men; with leave to volunteers to enlist between twenty and thirty, their number to be deducted from the number ballotted for; the time of service to be four years, and one year less for volunteers, with a power of extension in case of danger to the extent of a twelvemonth; the periods of training to be twenty-eight or fourteen days in the first, and fourteen in every following year. The expense was estimated at 200,000*l.* the first year, and at somewhat more in the following years. After some further explanation of the details of the bill, the noble lord concluded by saying, that whether he retained the confidence of the house or not, it was a satisfaction to him to have proposed this measure for the defence of the country.—Various members made remarks on the measure. The most important were those of Lord PALMERSTON, whose speech was an unconditional advocacy of the necessity for providing some such additional measure of national defence as the militia. "I trust (he said) our relations with all those countries from whom, under any circumstances, any danger might arise, are as friendly as they can be, and that there is no subject at present likely to arise which can expose this country to the danger of war. But the noble lord at the head of her Majesty's government knows, that so long ago as the year 1816, I took the liberty of pressing on him my opinion, that, on general principles, and with a view to the permanent and lasting interests of the country, it was desirable that some such measure of precaution should be taken as that which is the object of the present proposal; and that I have at various times renewed my instances, but that there were difficulties which prevented their being carried into effect. I am glad, sir, these difficulties have disappeared, and that her Majesty's government are now enabled to propose measures to provide more adequately for the defence of the country. There are honourable gentlemen who say they hope we may not be again engaged in continental warfare, or mix ourselves up unnecessarily with continental quarrels. Sir, I agree with them entirely; but we, as the noble lord said, now have engagements, and some of them of long standing, which may involve us with other countries. We have political interests beyond our shores. We have engagements which it would not be safe to stand quietly by and see destroyed." These general reasons Lord Palmerston fortified at considerable length. He contended that it is perfectly impossible to defend all of our widely-extended insular shore by fortifications; there was no fortification like brave men, armed, organised, disciplined, and ready to meet an enemy. It was mighty well for persons in this country to talk of the hardships of taking men from their farms and shops; but those who have served abroad, and seen the effects of war, think that a greater calamity could not befall this country than the landing of a force of sufficient magnitude to occupy any portion for even the shortest conceivable period. He observed that the citizens of the United States do not feel the service a hardship, though there are a million of militia-men there. He corrected a statement by Mr. Cobden, that the national guards of France were disbanded—they had more recently been partially organised. He observed that this country is

an exception from all European prudential usage in dispensing with a militia. He stated reasons for preferring the regular militia to the local, under which the men would be drilled in squads instead of battalions, and, county by county he led successively up against the enemy. In conclusion, he referred to the questions from Irish members about the omission of Ireland from the bill. The reason for the omission he was at a loss to conceive; for he would pledge his existence that there was not a man in Ireland who would be called out, and who had taken the oath of allegiance, who would not lose his life rather than not defend his country against invasion.—The chairman was instructed to ask for leave to bring in a bill, which was granted; the report to be brought up on Friday.

A bill for the *Disfranchisement of St. Alban's* was brought in by Sir G. GREY. On the motion for leave to do so, Sir D. L. EVANS declined to press his amendment to include the borough of Harwich, intimating that he would, on a future day, move a commission of inquiry into the alleged corruption there. A long and somewhat warm discussion, however, arose on the motion, in which Mr. J. Bell, Mr. Repton, and Mr. Bagshaw defended the character of their respective boroughs. Mr. SPOONER and Lord C. HAMILTON charged complicity with corrupt practices at elections, in connexion with Mr. Coppock, against members of the opposite (the ministerial) party, and Mr. Ro buck intimated an intention of calling Mr. Coppock to the bar, to examine him as to a statement made by Mr. Spooner that that gentleman had been rewarded for his services by government patronage; a statement which Mr. Hayter repelled.—Mr. DISRAELI read from the Sudbury report that a clerk of Mr. Coppock's, engaged in the Dyce Sombre case in 1841, had since been appointed to a clerkship in the Customs.

On the motion of the LORD ADVOCATE the house resolved itself into committee on the bill for the *Abolition of Tests in the Scotch Universities*, and after a short discussion, in which Lord Melgund, Mr. F. Mackenzie, Mr. F. Maule, Mr. Cowan, and Mr. Forbes took part, the chairman was ordered to move for leave to bring in a bill, which, the house having resumed, was given.

Sir D. L. EVANS moved for leave to bring in a bill for the *Reduction of Duty on Carriages*, to which the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER objected, and which after a brief discussion was negatived by 59 to 21.—Mr. HEADLAM moved a resolution for the *Abolition of Stamp Duties on Receipts*, which was opposed by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, and which was also negatived by 61 to 28.

On Wednesday the 18th, Mr. F. MACKENZIE, in moving the second reading of the *Public Houses (Scotland) Bill*, proposed that it be referred to a select committee.—Mr. HUME did not think the bill would predetermine the effect intended, to check drunkenness in Scotland, which could only be done, as it had been done in England, by providing rational amusements for the people.—Lord DRUMLANRIG supported the bill with a view to the information the committee would elicit.—Mr. A. HASTIE contended that the habits of the people were improving.—Mr. F. MAULE was of a different opinion. With a population of not quite three millions, there was a consumption of not less than 6,000,000 gallons of raw spirits. He attributed the evil to the sale of spirits by grocers, instead of confining it to public houses. He hoped the house would by reading the bill a second time, commit itself to the principle that the consumption of spirits in Scotland ought to be diminished.—Mr. OSWALD did not think this could be effected by legislative measures, and feared the granting of licenses would lead to a great deal of jobbing.—Mr. MCGREGOR was opposed to the bill because it was contrary to any commercial maxim, and would not insure the end intended.—Mr. BRUCE thought that in committee the bill might be so altered as to produce a useful measure. In Glasgow alone no less a sum than 1,200,000*l.* a year was expended upon ardent spirits.—Mr. COWAN was favourable to the system of licenses.—Sir J. HOPKINS hoped the Lord Advocate would take charge of the bill in committee.—The LORD ADVOCATE was willing to vote for the second reading, but could not support the bill further in its present shape.—Mr. ELLIOTT objected

to the arbitrary power which the bill would give to the magistrates.—Mr. F. MACKENZIE urged the second reading of the bill on the ground that it was the only means of obtaining legislation on the subject this session.—Lord MELGUND believed it would increase the evils which it professed to cure.—Mr. BOUVIER thought the very supporters of the bill had objected to its details.—On a division, 123 voted for and 67 against the bill, which was accordingly read a second time.

Mr. BRIGHT (for Mr. Milner Gibson) moved the second reading of the *County Rates Expenditure Bill*.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON opposed the bill, which, he declared, assailed ancient institutions of the country, and if introduced at all, ought to have been brought in on the responsibility of government. Condemning the *animus* by which, he said, the promoters of the bill were actuated, he moved its being read a second time that day six months.—Mr. R. PALMER said that the principle of the bill (which had been represented as the same as that of last year) had been entirely altered. Under the present bill it was left to boards of guardians to decide whether any magistrate whatever should have a voice in the affairs of his county. He charged Mr. M. Gibson with dealing unfairly by the house.—Mr. M. GIBSON denied that there was any alteration in the principle of the bill, and asserted his right to deal as he thought proper with its details. The principle of the bill having been twice sanctioned by the House of Commons, he thought it was the duty of government to take it up.—Sir G. GREY thought that, on introducing the bill, Mr. Gibson should have explained its difference from that of last year, and that those who had supported the latter were not thereby bound to vote in favour of the present measure. He was not prepared to agree to a bill which excluded the magistrates from the direction of the county expenditure. Pointing out other important differences between this bill and its predecessor, he said that he could not consent to the second reading.—Mr. BRIGHT spoke in favour of the bill, and warmly complained of Sir G. Grey's opposition.—Mr. DEEDS said that Mr. M. Gibson had brought the present opposition upon himself, by setting himself in opposition to the select committee.—Sir HUME regretted that, on account of a want of tact in the mover of the bill, the ratepayers were to be deprived of an important boon.—Mr. HENLEY said that the measure had been brought forward as a means of getting up a popular agitation. After some further discussion the second reading was negatived by 130 to 63.

Mr. FRESHFIELD moved the second reading of the *County Rates Bill*, explaining that his object was to consolidate existing acts, and put an end to incongruities in the law. To prevent inequalities, he proposed to take the gross, instead of the nett, value of property as the basis of the rate. After a short discussion, the second reading was agreed to.

On Thursday the 19th, Lord NAAS, according to notice, brought forward his *Charge against Lord Clarendon as Viceroy of Ireland*. He moved a resolution that the transactions which have recently taken place between the Irish government and the editor of a Dublin newspaper are of a nature to weaken the authority of the executive, and to reflect discredit upon the administration of public affairs. After giving a brief outline of the cause of action tried on the 5th of December last in the Irish Court of Queen's Bench, in which Mr. Birch was the plaintiff and Sir William Somerville the defendant, when it had not been denied that Mr. Birch had been employed by the Irish government, he proceeded to show the character of Mr. Birch and that of his paper. He then traced the connexion between the government and the *World* newspaper, commencing in 1848, as developed by the evidence at the trial. He read various letters, commenting upon certain passages, and laying particular stress upon a letter, which he characterised as an extraordinary one, from Mr. Birch to Lord J. Russell, in June last. The most painful part of the case, Lord Naas remarked, was the appearance of the lord-lieutenant at the trial, the first appearance of a viceroy of Ireland in the witness-box, to give evidence against his own chief secretary. From the evidence of Lord Clarendon he drew the conclusion that Mr. Birch was employed to support the measures of the

government, on the understanding that he was to receive a certain reward, and it was admitted that these services were paid for partly out of public money, although his lordship stated that he afterwards repaid that money out of his own pocket. Under these circumstances he thought that he was justified in bringing to the notice of the house acts which, in his opinion, called for condemnation.—Lord J. RUSSELL began his speech in reply by saying, "The noble lord leaving those questions in which he has lately been engaged, has brought a most grave question for the consideration of the house. And let him not expect to extenuate or diminish the gravity of that question. He says that he does not wish to do anything vexatious, and that he does not wish to make any remarks personal to Lord Clarendon. Now the house must be quite aware that the attempt of the noble lord is to blast the character and to affix disgrace upon a man who has rendered great public services, who has not only been engaged in political life with great honour and credit, but who has rendered great services to that country of which the noble lord is a representative. Let not the house at all believe that the noble lord brings forward a question of mere speculative reference to public morality; it must entail the consequences that I have described; and I may ask on what foundation does the noble lord ask the house to come to so grave and penal a declaration? The facts with respect to these transactions require to be again stated after the narrative of the noble lord." Lord J. Russell then gave an exposition of the circumstances which led the Irish government to countenance Mr. Birch, who tendered his services in the spring of 1848, when the state of Ireland was one of great peril, to promote the cause of peace and order, and these services were with that object accepted. He taxed Lord Naas with unfairly excluding from view the perilous position of Ireland at that critical period, which had induced the lord-lieutenant to encourage a public writer to support, not his government, but the cause of the whole united kingdom. In these difficult and dangerous times Lord Clarendon had shown all those qualities which should distinguish a viceroy, and now, when the danger was past, an attempt was made to affix a stigma upon his fame. He could not understand how a member of a conservative opposition, who owed to the wisdom and energy of Lord Clarendon the safety of his property, could now arraign the men by whom those benefits had been conferred, and ask the house to concur with him in condemning one to whom he ought to be grateful. In his (Lord John's) own opinion, it would have been more discreet in Lord Clarendon if he had refused a compromise with Mr. Birch; but a slight error of this kind was but a feather's weight in the scale against his great and undoubted services, and he (Lord John) was persuaded that the house would be of opinion that it would be consistent neither with its own dignity nor the interests of the country to pronounce Lord Clarendon's condemnation.—The motion was supported by Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Moore, Colonel Sibthorp, Mr. Newdegate, and Lord Claude Hamilton; and opposed by Mr. Hobhouse, Mr. Roche, Dr. Power, Col. Thompson, and Sir D. Norreys.—Lord PALMERSTON said, that having for many years had the advantage and honour of Lord Clarendon's friendship, and been connected with him by official relations, he could not give a silent negative to the motion. He was bound to bear his testimony to his private worth and personal honour, and to express his deep regret that he should have been selected as the object of a personal attack. This was not a worthy weapon of political warfare. For such a motion the grounds should be broad, clear, and substantial, and he appealed to all who had heard the debate whether any such ground had been assigned. What had Lord Naas established? It was this:—In a moment of great public peril, when danger of the greatest magnitude threatened that part of the empire of which he was the responsible governor, a newspaper editor comes to him and says, "I agree in the policy which you are carrying on—I wish to support the cause of the monarchy, the cause of loyalty and order, which you are charged to maintain. I have a paper which has but a small circulation, and I am willing, if you can assist me in giving a greater circulation, to endeavour to

diffuse more extensively the opinions which I conscientiously entertain, and which are favourable to the system of government that you are desirous of carrying out." Why, sir, (said Lord Palmerston) if my noble friend had shrunk from giving the editor that support, he would have been more liable to blame than he is for having afforded to him the means of rendering the public a service. It may be that the editor was in some respect unworthy the confidence which my noble friend reposed in him. Sir, it is the misfortune of generous minds frequently to fall into the error of trusting too implicitly those who afterwards prove themselves unworthy of the confidence placed in them. But, sir, I must say, that for my part, I should not think that I was doing myself credit or honour by taking advantage of information given me by a man who had proved himself so undeserving of confidence; and it must be recollected that those who endeavour to throw dirt upon others may sometimes soil their own hands. Lord Palmerston concluded by saying he was sure, from the tone of the house, that this attempt to censure Lord Clarendon would utterly fail, and that he would retain the high position he had always held.—After a reply from Lord NAAS the house divided, when the motion was negatived by 229 against 137.

On Friday the 20th, on the bringing up of the report on the ministerial *Local Militia Acts Bill*, Lord John RUSSELL again briefly set forth the main features of his measure, and his explanations seemed to anticipate some of the gravest objections about to be urged with success against him. He proposed to allow substitutes, but to require that they should be taken out of the same lists—the lists of the same county and year: thus he got rid of the onerousness of strict personal service, and still avoided the evils of the system of general evasion by hiring substitutes, which is always practised when the regular militia is embodied in time of peace. He proposed that the queen have power to call out the force, not only in presence of actual invasion, but in case of "apprehended invasion;" and he would retain the force embodied for six months after the enemy has left our shores, instead of six weeks, as the local militia law enacts, with a further liability to be kept on foot for twelve months.—Lord PALMERSTON rose ostensibly to move amendments in the instructions of the chairman, that would make the title of the bill to be brought in accord with the explanation of the provisions which Lord John Russell had given. The title of the bill was for a local militia, but the bill described was very nearly founded on the regular militia. The local system was thrown aside by Lord John Russell, but the local name was preserved. Going over the objections to the local militia as regulated by the old law—its immobility in case of sudden danger, its impermanency when the danger shall have only momentarily passed, the restriction of its service to Great Britain—Lord Palmerston summed up the objections to it by describing what is really wanted. "We have now (he said) to provide, not for a danger which may happen at the end of six months or twelve months, but for a danger which may happen at the end of a fortnight from the time when it was first apprehended. Now, how is that to be provided for? Why, the only rational mode is, that you should have at your disposal in time of peace a considerable force, adequately officered, drilled, disciplined, clothed, and armed, and that this force should be kept ready at the shortest notice to act under arms at the breaking out of war, or when war appears imminent. You want a force which shall be already drawn, which is sufficient for ordinary purposes, and which you can lay your hand upon at the shortest possible notice." He met the objections to a regular militia in this way. "It is said that the regular militia is a bad thing, because it admits of substitutes; that you cannot rely upon your substitute; that he does not appear at the time of training; that he will not come whenever the regiment is embodied; that in Scotland people do not like to serve, and that in Ireland you cannot trust the men who may be enrolled. To listen to these objections, one might suppose that Englishmen are cheats, that Scotchmen are cowards, and that Irishmen are traitors. All the objections I ever heard are founded upon a practical distrust of the people of these countries. Sir, I,

on the contrary, am disposed rather to confide in them. But if you cannot trust your population to defend themselves, you must give them up. If you cannot trust Englishmen to come to the defence of their country—if Scotchmen will not take up arms and fight against an invading army—if Irishmen will not be true to their queen and country—why, let us send for a Russian force at once; let us have an Austrian garrison in London; let us hide our heads in shame and confusion, and confess that England is no longer England, and that her people have no longer spirit to defend themselves, their homes, their families, and their country. Sir, that is not my opinion. I am of opinion that Englishmen are proud of their country; that they are sensible of the value of what they have to defend; that they are fully determined to maintain their liberties; that they will not give way to an unreasonable panic, or imagine dangers that do not exist, but that they will be prepared deliberately to guard themselves against dangers that are sufficiently probable. And my belief is, that if the government make the appeal to the people—if they show them the dangers that may possibly arise—if they point out to them the value of the stake they have to defend—I, for one, believe you will not find the English substitutes running away from their colours, that Scotchmen will maintain their character for courage, and that Irishmen will not be found unworthy of the country to which they belong." Lord Palmerston's amendment, that the words "and consolidate" be inserted in the title of the bill, after the word "amend," was agreed to. He then moved to leave out the word "local" from the title.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON complained that national funds should be applied for any other purpose than the reduction of taxation, and spoke warmly against our having any political interests beyond the shores of the United Kingdom. He then asserted that it might be imprudent to arm the Irish, for the Catholics of Ireland with arms in their hands would certainly not fight for the Protestant establishment there. We ought to rely upon our navy for the defence of the country, which he would not believe was defenceless, for he would not believe that all those who had been entrusted with the armaments of the country had acted so basely as to squander the enormous sums confided to them. The present panic had been got up for political purposes.—Lord John RUSSELL opposed the amendment. Defending his own proposal, he said, that to tell the country that men, whatever their rank or position, should be bound to serve for five years, substitutes not being accepted, would be to make the bill generally unpopular. After bringing forward other objections to the regular militia system, he again urged that the government had well considered the subject, and should, at all events, be permitted to produce its plan. All he could say was, that if Lord Palmerston's amendment were carried, he should leave his lordship and Mr. Bernal to bring in their measure, and should reserve to himself the right to oppose it.—Mr. DISRAELI remarked upon the extraordinary course taken by Lord J. Russell, who seemed to think it unconstitutional in a parliamentary majority to refuse to a government leave to bring in a bill, the structure of which the house might consider vicious. He conceived that it was of great importance to come to a decision on the principle of the measure for establishing a domestic garrison, upon which, after four years' consideration, the government had ventured. Rebuking Lord John Russell for his concluding declaration, he charged him with being much too ready to carry his points by menaces to the house. The threat of to-night would not, however, prevent the house from deciding upon the principle of the new government measure.—Sir George GANEY pointed out that Lord Palmerston did much more than put a direct negative, such as he had a right to put, on the course proposed by the minister for the adoption of the house: he insisted on putting his own bill into the hands of ministers, and on making them ask leave to bring that in. As to the measure thus to be forced upon them, Sir George believed a regular militia would cost more than an equal number of men for the regular army.—Mr. HUME declared against Lord Palmerston on the point of form: his

course was unprecedented.—After a few more speeches, the house went to a division.—For Lord Palmerston's amendment, 136; against it, 125; majority against government, 11.—Lord John RUSSELL rose and stated, that as the house refused him leave to bring in his own bill, and as he could not be responsible for any other, he relieved himself of all responsibility with respect to the measure. "Any other person might bring in a bill on the subject, but he would not."—This declaration was received with loud cheers from all parts of the house.—Lord PALMERSTON expressed extreme surprise at this announcement; that when there was so little difference, government should shrink from its duty, and, on account of a small incidental failure, throw up a measure which they ought not to have proposed unless they thought it really essential for the welfare of the country.—Lord J. RUSSELL replied, that he was stopped at the threshold, and told by the division that the house had no confidence in the government. The cheers of gentlemen affirmed that on this serious question such was the feeling of a majority of the house. There being no motion before the house, he moved that the chairman and Lord Palmerston be ordered to bring in the bill.—Sir Benjamin HALL declared that he had voted against Lord Palmerston's motion, as unequal for and unprecedented, uncourteous and unconstitutional; but after the division, the manly and constitutional course would be for Lord John Russell to declare that he no longer presides over the councils of this country.—Lord John RUSSELL said, he thought his meaning had been sufficiently plain—"When I said I took it for granted, as the result of the vote of the house, that the ministry had no longer the confidence of the house, and that such being the case, I could no longer continue"—[Loud ministerial cheers prevented the conclusion of the sentence from being heard; but it was inferred that Lord John said, or meant to say, that he could no longer continue to be the responsible adviser of the crown.]—He then withdrew his motion, and the house adjourned.

Monday 23rd, Lord John RUSSELL announced that Ministers had resigned, and that the Queen had sent to the Earl of Derby, who was engaged in the formation of a new ministry. Lord John then said, with regard to the future, that he should feel it his duty, out of office as well as in office, to oppose the restoration of a duty on corn, whether for protection or revenue; that he should support an extension of the suffrage to those who were fitted to exercise the franchise; and that he should always exert any influence he might possess for the maintenance of the blessings of peace. In conformity with a wish expressed by Lord Derby, he moved that the house at its rising do adjourn until Friday next. The matter was agreed to, and the house adjourned.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—Feb. 3.—Opening of Parliament by her Majesty. The address.

5th.—Common Law Procedure Amendment Bill brought in and read a first time.

9th.—The above Bill read a second time.

12th.—Ditto referred to a select committee.

13th.—County Courts Further Extension Bill read a second time. Patent Law Amendment Bill brought in by Lord Brougham.

17th.—Lord Clancarty not allowed to dispense with oath of supremacy. County Courts Extension Bill amended and passed through committee.

23rd.—Announcement of resignation of Ministers. Adjournment of the house.

House of Commons.—Feb. 3.—The address.

4th.—Report on the address.

5th.—Committee of Supply agreed to.

6th.—Sultors in Chanery Relief Bill brought in by the Solicitor-General. Leave to Lord Seymour and Mr. Moffatt to bring in separate Bills for Water Supply to the Metropolis. Ventilation of the house—Dr. Reid examined.

9th.—New Reform Bill, leave to bring it in given to Lord John Russell.

10th.—Leave to Mr. Sherman Crawford to bring in a Bill for Tenant Right in Ireland.

11th.—Manchester and Salford Education Bill, second reading postponed. Ventilation of the house; Mr. Osborne's motion, that the matter be referred to Dr. Reid, carried. Income Tax Committee of last session renewed.

12th.—New Reform Bill brought in by Lord John Russell, and read a first time.—Select Committee on Preserved Meats for

the Navy.—Mortmain Laws, Mr. Headlam's Committee re-appointed.—Customs Inquiry, Mr. Mitchell's Select Committee re-appointed.

13th.—International Copyright Bill brought in by Mr. Labouchere.—New Reform Bills for Scotland and Ireland brought in by the Lord Advocate and Sir W. Somerville.

16th.—Militia Acts considered in committee.—Lord John Russell's proposed measure.—Scottish Universities Tests Abolition Bill to be brought in.

17th.—Duty on Carriages, Sir De Lacy Evans's motion, negatived.—Stamp Receipts, Mr. Headlam's motion, negatived.—Parliamentary Representation Bills (Irish and Scotch), brought in and read a first time.

18th.—County Rates Bill (Mr. Freshfield's), read a second time.—Public Houses (Scotland) Bill read a second time.—County Rates Expenditure Bill (Mr. Gibson's) thrown out on second reading.—Copyright Amendment (Mr. Lewis's) Bill.

19th.—Lord Naas's motion of censure on Lord Clarendon negatived.

20th.—Militia Acts, report brought up. Lord Palmerston's amendment to leave out the word "local" carried against ministers by 136 to 125.—Resignation of Ministers intimated by Lord John Russell.—Church Affairs in the Colonies considered in Committee.—Charitable Trusts, in Committee.—Personal Intestate Estates, leave given to Mr. Cornwall Lewis to bring in a bill.

23rd.—Resignation of Ministers announced by Lord John Russell.—House adjourned.

THE two Houses of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury assembled at the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, on the 4th inst. In the Upper House, besides the Archbishop of Canterbury, there were the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Exeter, the Bishop of Chichester, the Bishop of Lichfield, and the Bishop of St. Asaph; in the Lower House, Archdeacon Denison, the Archdeacon of Bath, the Archdeacon of Barnstaple, the Archdeacon of Bristol, the Archdeacon of Maidstone, the Reverends J. Slaney, Dr. Moore, Dr. Spry, Dr. Mill, G. E. Gillett, H. E. Majendie, R. W. Huntley, E. Goddard, J. Yardley, T. Mills, H. A. Woodgate, T. Randolph, J. Harding. The solemn initiatory services having been gone through, an entrance upon actual business was made. In the Upper House, the Bishop of London presented seven petitions from several dioceses, praying that Convocation might sit for despatch of business. The Bishop of Exeter presented five petitions, the Bishop of Chichester eight, the Bishop of Llandaff one, the Bishop of Oxford four, and the Bishop of St. Asaph one, all of the same tenor as those presented by the Bishop of London. An animated discussion arose, in which the Bishops of London, Exeter, Chichester, Winchester, St. Asaph, Oxford, and Lichfield, took part, on the proposition to address the Queen for her license to meet for despatch of business. The debate had gone on for about an hour, when the Archbishop appealed to his brethren to forbear pressing the subject at the present moment. "However much (he said) Synodical action might be desired, he did not think that any good would accrue from petitioning her Majesty; for he felt quite certain that, in the present state of the Church and its multitudinous divisions, their prayer would not be granted." At the same time in the Lower House, about thirty petitions had been received, and a very earnest discussion on the same topic had gone on. The Lower House carried an address on the subject, and sent it to the Upper House with a request that they would take the subject into consideration. There was some demur to receiving this address, on the ground of form; but it was received, and "best attention" was promised for it. The Prolocutor of the Lower House, and the members who accompanied him, were returning to their own chamber, to enter on further business, when the Archbishop's Apparitor summoned them back; and on their arrival the Queen's Proctor, Mr. F. Hart Dyke, read the formal prorogation of the Convocation to Thursday, the 19th of August. At the reading of this document great surprise was expressed, and many of the members said the proceeding was illegal; but there was no appeal.

On the same day the Convocation of the Province of York assembled at the Chapter-house of that city. But when the clergy appeared, several of them with petitions, numerously signed, in their hands, they found the doors

closed against them, and were told by officials that there were no preparations for them. They adjourned to the Chapter Library, and wrote a joint letter to their Archbishop, asking when and where they might present their petitions for the *real* meeting of Convocation. Among the clergy present, were the Archdeacons Churton and Wilberforce, the Honourable and Reverend F. Grey, Messrs. Trevor, Gamlen, &c.

A deputation of persons connected with the *Agricultural Interest* waited on Lord John Russell, on the 10th inst., to impress upon his lordship the necessity of conceding the repeal of the malt-tax, an equitable measure of tenant-right, a thorough revision of the present mode of managing the county expenditure, the abolition of the game-laws, the removal of restrictions to the growth of exciseable articles, and the adaptation of the tithe rent-charge to present prices. The deputation was introduced by Lord Rendlesham, and amongst its principal members were Mr. C. H. Lattimore, Mr. T. B. Johnson, Mr. R. Haward, Mr. C. F. Fitch, Mr. P. R. Welch, Mr. J. Garrould, and many other influential tenant farmers residing in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Lord John Russell said that he could not at present enter into all the important matters which had been brought under his notice, but would give them full consideration. He observed, however, with regard to the malt-tax, that it supplied so large a source of revenue, that the chancellor of the exchequer could hardly afford to spare it. In respect to the excise duties, he doubted whether they could make out their case, that the consumption of corn was diminished by the duty on malt, because, it must be remembered, that the beer duty was taken off in 1830, and the war-duty was repealed after the peace. He should not deny that the excise duties were in some degree injurious, but he thought it would be a serious thing for the government to propose the entire abolition of the malt-tax, or to substitute another tax for it.

Admiral Houston Stewart was elected member for Greenwich on the 10th, after a contest with Mr. Montague Chambers, Q.C. Admiral Stewart polled 2961, Mr. Chambers 1249.

Mr. Vernon Smith, Secretary of War, was re-elected for the borough of Northampton, on the 9th.—On the same day, Mr. Fox Maule was re-elected for Perth.

An official notification has been published to this effect, "that her Majesty's government are prepared, in certain cases, to advise her Majesty to accept the services of volunteer rifle corps, provided that the proposed formation of such corps is recommended by the lord-lieutenant of the county, and that the members of the corps undertake to provide their own arms and equipments, and to defray all the expenses attending it, except in the event of the corps being assembled for actual service."

A meeting of the Surrey magistracy and gentry at Epsom, held on the 17th inst., resolved to establish a *Rifle Corps*, under the conditions of the government notice. Public meetings to the same effect have been held at East Grinstead and other places.

Sir Brook Bridges has been elected member for East Kent, in opposition to Sir E. Dering.

The following are announced as the names of the New Ministry:—First Lord of the Treasury, Earl of Derby; Lord Chancellor, Sir Edward Sugden; Privy Seal, the Marquis of Salisbury; President of the Council, Earl of Lonsdale; Woods and Forests, Lord John Manners; Home Secretary, Mr. Walpole; Colonial Secretary, Sir J. Pakington; Under Secretary for Colonies, Lord Desart; Secretary at War, Major Beresford; Board of Control, Right Hon. C. Herries; Secretaries for the India Board, Lord Jocelyn and Mr. Gaskell; First Lord of the Admiralty, Duke of Northumberland; Postmaster-General, Earl of Hardwicke; Board of Trade, Mr. Henley; Vice-President of the Board of Trade, Mr. G. F. Young; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Disraeli; Foreign Secretary, Earl of Malmesbury; Secretaries to the Treasury, Messrs. G. A. Hamilton and Forbes Mackenzie; Attorney-General, Sir Frederick Thesiger; Solicitor-General, Sir Fitzroy Kelly; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Sir J. Y. Buller.—To hold offices without seats in the Cabinet:—Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Eglinton; Lord

Chancellor for Ireland, Mr. Blackburne; Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Lord Stanley; Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Napier; Solicitor-General for Ireland, Mr. Whiteside; Commander-in-Chief, the Duke of Wellington.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

IN the Court of Queen's Bench on the 31st ult., Sir Fitzroy Kelly moved, on behalf of Mr. Ramshay, late *Judge of the Liverpool County Court*, for a rule to show cause why an information should not be exhibited against Mr. Joseph Pollock, calling on him to show by what authority he claims to exercise the office of Judge in the Liverpool County Court. The application arose out of Mr. Ramshay's removal by the Earl of Carlisle, and was intended to test the legal validity of that removal. In the course of the argument the following letter from the Earl of Carlisle to Mr. Ramshay, was brought forward:—

"November, 24, 1851.

"Dear Sir,—This letter will reach you together with the painful intimation of the decision to which I have thought it my duty to come. One thing I request you to believe, which is, that nothing I am about to observe is written with the intention or wish to deprecate any proceedings on your part in consequence of that decision which you might see fit to adopt; still, in taking a step which I feel you can only regard as one of the most inimical character, I cannot, in justice to truth, refrain from recording my conviction, that the person whom I am thus removing from the post where I have placed him has conferred essential benefits on the community in the midst of whom he prosecuted his labours, now abruptly terminated. And in addition to other more personal reasons, I feel on these grounds much additional sorrow to have been unable to resist the conclusion that he had not the degree of self-command to enable him to properly perform the duties of Judge of the County Court of Liverpool. You will have perceived that this is not an official communication, still less is it one to which I expect any reply; but you are welcome to make any use of its contents you may think proper.

"I am, dear sir, your faithful servant,

"CARLISLE."

On the 10th inst., the court gave judgment against Mr. Ramshay's application. The court held that as Mr. Ramshay does not allege that he was removed without cause, or without a hearing, or that the matters complained of against him, if adjudged true, do not constitute inability or misbehaviour, they cannot interfere. The chancellor had jurisdiction to inquire; he had inquired in due form; his judgment was valid, and it must stand.

At the Bow Street police office, on the 9th, Mr. Feargus O'Connor was charged with *Assaulting a Police Constable*. The constable stated that on the preceding Saturday evening, he was on duty at the Lyceum Theatre, when he heard a great noise and disturbance, caused by the prisoner, who was in one of the private boxes of the dress circle, standing up, loudly imitating the violin with his mouth, and the drum with his hands. Some of the audience were applauding the prisoner, while others were crying "Turn him out, turn him out." The witness went up to the prisoner and civilly requested him to be quiet, and either take his seat or leave the house, in which latter case his money should be returned to him. The prisoner, who was still "jiggling about," turned upon witness and gave him a direct slap in the face with his hand. The constable then took him into custody and removed him to the station-house; on the way to which, the prisoner offered the constable a shilling to let him go, and subsequently offered him two shillings, with the promise that he would make him an inspector. This testimony was fully confirmed by respectable witnesses. Mr. G. W. M. Reynolds, who attended for his "friend," endeavoured to excuse the prisoner, on the ground that his mind was affected to such a degree that he was not master of his own conduct, and begged for a commutation of the sentence of a week's imprisonment, which the magistrate (Mr. Henry) had awarded. Mr. Henry said that the infliction of a fine in such a case would be nothing short of a mockery of justice, particularly as regarded a person in the position of Mr. O'Connor, as he had it in his power at once to pay the amount, and

the object of the legislature in conferring such a power was to apportion the punishment consistent with the position of the offender, so that persons who could command the amount of a fine should not altogether escape unpunished.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 11th inst., an action of *Nuisance* was tried at the instance of Mrs. Bostock, against the North Staffordshire Railway Company. The plaintiff is a lady possessed of property adjoining Brudyard-lake, in Staffordshire, and she has an interest in about 80 acres of the soil of the lake. The different proprietors of property adjoining this lake have the privilege of using the lake for pleasure-boats and for other purposes, except for boats or vessels for conveying passengers. The defendants became the purchasers from the Trent and Mersey Navigation of their interest in the lake. Advertisements appeared in the different papers stating that on Easter Monday there would be a *fête* and other sports on the lake, and that the railway company would run cheap trains to the lake during that day, and the consequence was that between 10,000 and 20,000 persons assembled there; great noise was made, cannon were fired, and all sorts of amusements took place upon the lake and upon the adjoining property. On Whit-Monday there was another *fête*, attended with similar noises and annoyances, and great damage was done to the plaintiff's plantations; the people broke the trees, and went all over the neighbourhood. The plaintiff went out and told them there was no public way; she was told to mind her own business. They used very coarse expressions, and conducted themselves in a very riotous and objectionable manner. The people in the boats shouted and made all kinds of noises, and altogether interfered very much with the comforts of her house. Mrs. Bostock's complaints being disregarded, the present action was brought. For the company it was contended that they had the right to have their boats on this lake, and to give these *fêtes*; and it was urged that it was rather a hard measure for this lady to attack this company because they had once or twice a year devised a mode of giving happiness and enjoyment to a class of persons who seldom had any intermission to their toil. No doubt the rights of property were to be protected; but were persons to be so selfish and so churlish as to bring actions because a few persons were thus enjoying themselves? Lord Campbell, in summing up, said, God forbid that the innocent amusements of the people should be restricted. He wished more and more that the legislature should encourage those amusements; but whether a railway company were to depart from their original object of conveying persons from one point to another, and, for the purpose of increasing their dividends, resorting to such modes as those described, was another question. It could not be endured in this country that railway companies were to create amusements which were to be a nuisance to the neighbourhood. It was for the jury to say whether or not this was a nuisance. The jury at once returned a verdict for the plaintiff. The case had been previously tried at Chester, and the jury would not give a verdict.

A point of great importance to *Shareholders of Joint Stock Companies* was involved in the proceedings of a recent meeting of the contributories to the Merchant Trader's Ship Loan Insurance Company, before Master in Chancery Sir William Horne. A call of 25*l.* per share being declared, counsel opposed the step on behalf of Lord Talbot and Mr. Winthrop, on the ground that they will have to pay 50,000*l.* of the call. The Master observed, that under the extraordinary provisions contained in the Joint-Stock Companies Winding-up Act, he had no alternative, however ruinous might be the result, but to declare the call; Lord Talbot and Mr. Winthrop, apparently the only solvent subscribers, having been fixed upon the list of contributories as liable to that extent. He could not help expressing great regret at the facility which the registration of the Joint-Stock Companies Act gave to the projectors of speculative and disastrous undertakings to involve others in these frightful liabilities. In the course of the discussion it was stated, that the company in question, and not fewer than four others, were the offspring, within less than a year, of one unprincipled projector;

and men of straw by multitudes, who could not now pay a farthing to discharge its debts, leaving the onus on the few who could, and who were decoyed into the scheme, received at the rate of 1*s.* and 2*s.* a head in the lowest purloins and pothouses to sign the document obtaining registration. Notice of appeal against the call was given.

Edward Staggles, a youth of 18, was brought before the Southwark Police Court, on a charge of *Attempting to Murder Mr. Barber*, a manufacturing chemist at Bermondsey. He had formerly been in Mr. Barber's employ; one night Mr. Barber found him in his manufactory, and was almost blinded by a powerful acid solution which the young ruffian threw in his face. Mr. Barber locked the then unknown assailant in the place, and fetched a neighbour. Staggles had then got into an upper floor, and through a trap-door he fired two pistols at Mr. Barber; one bullet went through the hair and wounded a finger, the other passed along the back, but merely tore the clothing. Mr. Barber courageously mounted the ladder and seized him, and he made no further resistance. He was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

A dreadful *Aggravated Murder* was committed in the county of Limerick, on the 18th inst. The victim was a poor man named James Cleary, who had been lately employed as a driver or under-agent by some landed gentleman. He was robbed and murdered within a mile of Askeaton. He must have been murdered with his own pistol, which he was observed to load and place in his pocket on leaving Askeaton for home. Death must have been instantaneous, as the bullet entered the left side, and passed through the left lung, entering the heart, which it also passed through and lodged in the back. The perpetrators of this crime, after shooting Cleary, carried off the pistol, and also robbed him of about 12*l.*, which he had received the day previous as rent for Mr. Davenport, one of his employers. The lord-lieutenant has offered a reward of 100*l.* for the apprehension of the murderer.

At the Mansion House, on the 19th, Mr. Stephen Beale, meat-salesman of Leadenhall-market, was charged with having *Exposed and offered for sale Meat unfit for Human Food*. The penalty amounts to 20*l.* for each offence. The charge was proved; and the sale of the bad meat was admitted by Mr. Beale, but he said it was the act of his foreman, and that in his large establishment he could not prevent such things happening. The sitting magistrate, Sir R. W. Carden, said:—The station you hold as an extensive and respectable salesman makes the offence of which you have been guilty more injurious. You are, of course, accountable for the acts of your servant. But I believe that you were perfectly aware of the sale, and of the description of meat sold, and that you completely sanctioned the dealing. As a wholesale butcher, you sold to a retail butcher, a poisonous article, which, if it had not been seized, would have been sold to the poor, and in all probability have caused some fatal distemper. You thus not only prejudice the fair trader, but you deal destruction amongst the indigent by the distribution of this horrible food. You say the meat was openly exposed to the public, but it has been proved that it was covered with a cloth after it was sold. I believe that your foreman takes upon himself the blame in order to save you from punishment, but the calculation was an erroneous one. The sale of unwholesome meat is, in my mind, a desperate evil, and I consider this a very bad case, and assure you that the trade shall be narrowly watched, and, in the event of conviction, heavily punished. Defendant:—It is the act of my servant, and it shall be visited upon him, whatever it may please the bench to fine me. If I am made responsible for the acts of my servants in this way, I may be ruined in a night, for it is quite impossible to see what they are selling. Sir R. W. Carden:—You are subject to a penalty of 20*l.* for this infringement of the very necessary act of parliament. I shall be content to inflict upon you the penalty of 5*l.* and costs, or imprisonment for one month. The defendant paid the penalty.

In the Court of Common Pleas on the 19th, Mr. Palmer, formerly a traveller to a wine-merchant in Aldgate, obtained 2000*l.* as *Compensation from the Brighton*

and South Coast Railway Company for injury received in a collision near Langport, in October last year. Mr. Palmer was struck on the back of the head; he is now quite unfitted for business, and will probably never recover his former health and strength of mind. His short examination in court produced a painful impression. He is a fine looking man of forty; and his salary at the time of the accident was 350*l.* a-year.

In the Birmingham Bankruptcy Court, on the 23rd, in the inquiry into the affairs of the *Bromsgrove Bank*, Mr. Francis Rufford, the partner who had the entire management of the bank, was examined, and made very remarkable statements. It appeared that he had associated with him in that management a person named Smith, who had absconded on account of the frauds he had committed. The balance-sheet in this bank extended from 1841 to 1851; in the former year there was a balance due to the customers of the bank over and above the receipts of the Yew Tree House estate (Mr. Rufford's residence), which was valued at 20,000*l.* On the 1st of January, 1840, the firm had credit to the amount of 170,000*l.*, all of which might be called in a month; and all the available money they had to meet it did not amount to more than 19,397*l.* The bankrupt admitted on a former examination, and he now repeated, that the system of country banking was defective; for that, owing to depositors requiring such a high rate of interest, the bankers were obliged to transact their business on insecure investments. The bankrupt spoke to transactions with a firm, Messrs. Fardon and Gossage. These persons were introduced to the bankrupts "by letters from highly respectable parties," and upon such recommendation they allowed an overdraw to the extent of 50,000*l.*, although during the time that debt was accumulating two returned notes of that firm passed through the bank. Ultimately Fardon and Gossage sold their entire property to the British Alkali Company for 130,000*l.* The bankrupt (Mr. F. Rufford) became chairman of that company, but notwithstanding the fact of this purchase money passing to Fardon and Gossage, the bank at Bromsgrove never had the precaution to secure the 50,000*l.* owing to them, but, instead, allowed the debt to increase. Mr. Gossage is now passing through his examination in the Liverpool Bankruptcy Court, but where Mr. Fardon is, he (Mr. Rufford) did not know. The following was the state of the Bromsgrove Bank at the time of the bankruptcy:—Debts, 227,826*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, to meet which there was only 13,000*l.* During eleven years and a half he (Mr. Rufford) had drawn out of the bank 56,559*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* for which the bank had no security.

A *Melancholy Suicide* has been committed by a poor woman named Stone, in Dean-street, Westminster. About seven years ago, her husband, an engineer, died, and was buried in the Broadway churchyard. The widow was left unprovided for, and left London to take a situation in Kent, where she was not successful. At the beginning of the present month, she took lodgings in Dean-street. Nothing having been seen of her lately, her door was broken open, and she was found lying dead on the floor. Mr. Heath, the surgeon of Bridge-street, was of opinion that she had been dead seven or eight days. He found on the mantelpiece two bottles labelled "poison;" and upon a post-mortem examination, he discovered about an ounce of laudanum in the stomach. She had been in the habit for two years of going to the churchyard and weeping over the grave of her husband. In her room the following letter was found:

"To save trouble, Mrs. Ann Stone came by her death by a draught of laudanum, no one knowing that she did take it, as she is a total stranger in the house she is in. Every effort she has made to obtain an honest living failed her. She has the presumption to throw her soul in the presence of the Almighty, and she fervently prays that God will have mercy on her soul. Good Christians, do not allow a number of persons to look on my unfortunate body. I have performed all the offices that are requisite; the body is quite ready for the coffin."

She then begs that she may be buried in the same grave with her husband, and expressed a fear that the New Victoria-street might destroy it. She concludes—"If I could have died on my husband's grave-stone, I would have done so."

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

DURING the late gales, a schooner in Scarborough Roads signalled for a pilot to take her into the harbour; six fishermen put off in a coble; not far from the pier-end a sea upset the boat, and all the men *Perished*. They were married, and have left twenty-five children.

Early on the morning of the 31st ult., a small craft belonging to Gravesend ran down a bark off Whitby; it sank almost instantaneously, and all the crew, twelve or fourteen in number, were *Drowned*.

On the 30th ult., at Holywell Level Mine, near Holywell, the men were in the act of lowering a lift of pumps, when the vast weight of iron-work, suspended by a capstan-rope, in its progress downwards came in contact with some part of the pit-work, or part of the machinery broke, and giving a lurch, whereby its weight (20 tons) became suddenly increased too much for the men to resist; they were instantly overpowered, and the capstan, running round with great impetuosity, threw them off in every direction, several of them being pitched high into the air, and a distance into the field: two of the men were hurled into the fire, and were much burnt, and three were *Killed*.

A dreadful calamity has occurred at Holmfirth, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, caused by the *Bursting of the Embankment of a great Water Reservoir*. In the hills above Holmfirth are several reservoirs, managed by a body called the Holme Conservancy Commissioners. They are formed by dams across narrow gorges, which convert the valleys into lakes. The embankment of the Bilberry reservoir, which is 150 yards long and 90 feet high, had been lately in a doubtful condition, from the pressure of the enormous column of water accumulated during the rains of the last month. On the morning of the 5th inst., before dawn, the embankment was suddenly swept away, and the gorge below it, with every house, mill, and manufactory on the borders of the Holme, down to the town of Holmfirth, nearly three miles from the reservoir, destroyed or ruined. The loss of life and property is terribly great. Whole families were destroyed, without a single survivor being left. Several bodies were carried down as far as Hull, where they were taken out of the Humber. The houses in Water-street, six in number, were swept away by a double flood; for the water from Bilberry reservoir caused another reservoir belonging to a mill to burst: the row of houses was struck by the flood simultaneously at the end and at the front. James Metterick, the only one of the family saved, lived in one of these houses. He states, "that there were ten of them in the house—his father, stepmother, and eight children. They were roused by some one soon after one o'clock. He hastily put on a few clothes, and ran to the staircase-window, looking up the valley, where he met his stepmother. A glance at the approaching water satisfied them it was the reservoir had burst. The children were asleep below stairs, but his father handed them up to him and Mrs. Metterick, and they were placed in the chamber. Just then the deluge came, and the lower room was filled in an instant, and the water burst through into the chamber. He and Mrs. Metterick again seized the children, and carried all but one a story higher, into the attic: the flood had caught his father and one child on the stairs and overwhelmed them. The next moment the whole house was carried away, and he saw no more of any of the family: he found himself in the raging torrent, swept before it for a quarter of a mile like a feather. He got hold of a floating plank, lost it, and seized another; was carried aside into the Bottom Mill reservoir, where the water soon became quieter; he paddled himself out of it by means of another floating piece of wood which he seized. He reached the bank of the reservoir in a very exhausted condition." A boy in a cottage was carried up by the water to within a few inches of the ceiling: he caught hold of a beam, to which he clung for an hour, and was rescued when the water subsided. It appears that upwards of 100 persons have perished, and 71 dead bodies have been found. There have been 4 mills, 10 dyehouses, 10 drying-stoves, 27 cottages, 7 tradesmen's

houses, 7 shops, 6 bridges, 1 county bridge, 10 warehouses, 18 barns and stables, totally destroyed; while 5 dyehouses and stock, 17 mills, 3 stoves, 139 cottages, 7 tradesmen's houses, 44 large shops, 11 public-houses, 5 bridges, 1 county bridge, 200 acres of land, 14 warehouses, 13 barns, 3 places of worship, and 2 iron foundries, are partially destroyed. Such is the return made to a committee appointed to institute inquiries on the subject. The number of adults thrown out of employ is stated at 4986, the number of children 2142—altogether 7128, whose earnings, when at work, amounted to 27487. per week. The total loss caused is, according to the most moderate calculation, estimated at not less than 250,000*l*. The Bilberry reservoir dam, it appears, was built in 1840, by Messrs. Sharp and Sons. The foundation has always been suspected; one of the men who has perished sent his family away, only a few days before the catastrophe, and was among those who watched the bank during the night. In addition, it seems, there existed some quarrel, through which the safety-machinery had got out of working order. A coroner's inquest has commenced an investigation into the circumstances which led to this disaster.

At Holmfirth, the subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers amount to 2000*l*, at Huddersfield to 10,000*l*. A city meeting was held in the London Tavern on Monday,—the Lord Mayor presiding,—when a fund was commenced with upwards of 1000*l*. The Leeds subscription began with about 2000*l*.

The *Rains* which caused the disaster at Holmfirth, have done much damage in various parts of the northern counties. The rivers which flow through Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire were swollen till the water burst the banks, and in many places covered the surrounding country, converting all the low grounds into immense lakes. In the neighbourhood of Manchester the river Irwell rose to a height which has not been remembered for many years; and a little above the town, where it flows through the Walnes, the left bank was overflowed, and a great portion of Lower Broughton was laid under water, in some places to a depth of nine feet. Two rows of houses situated between Broughton lane and the river Irwell, could not be approached without boats, and it was apprehended they would be carried away; but boats were got and a number of people brought away. In the evening the water subsided. A considerable portion of Peel Park was also under water, from the overflow of the Irwell. The river Medlock, which runs through the south of Manchester, overflowed near the lower part of Oxford Street, placing a considerable quantity of property under water. The houses in Little Ireland were flooded, so that the inhabitants were obliged to betake themselves to the upper storeys, and were so much alarmed that the assistance of the police was called in, and a boat obtained to remove them where it was found necessary. Several of the mills on the banks of the river were flooded in the lower storeys, and some of them were compelled to cease work in consequence of the boiler houses being flooded. The river Mersey overflowed its banks from Stockport to Stretford, and the public roads crossing the river were in some places flooded to a depth of four feet six inches, rendering it dangerous for omnibuses and other vehicles to cross.

In the afternoon of the 16th inst., a waggon belonging to Messrs. Archer and Co., Golden-lane, City, was proceeding with a load of sugar along the Hampstead-road, when the waggoner was attracted by a scream, and upon looking round saw a boy, about fourteen years of age, lying on the ground, and *cut in two* by the wheel of the waggon. The deceased was, with other boys, scraping the sugar from the casks, when he slipped from the cart under the wheel.

A *Fire* broke out at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, on the 20th, about six o'clock in the morning, which very nearly destroyed the whole building; that part in which it raged was gutted by nine o'clock, but all danger of its extension was then over. The cause is not yet known, but is believed to have been either a spark from a candle left as a light on the staircase, or a beam running into a flue. The college is insured. Mr. Nunn, who was sleeping in an adjoining room to that in which the fire broke out, had a narrow escape.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE differences between the *Operative Engineers and their Employers* remain without prospect of settlement. A meeting of the Central Association of Employers was held on the 4th instant, when it was resolved to open their establishments on the Monday following to any or all the operatives required, on each signing a copy of the following declaration: "I do honestly declare that I am neither now, nor will I during the continuance of my engagement with my present employers, become a member of, or support any society which, directly or indirectly, by its rules, meetings, or funds, professes to control or interfere with the arrangements or regulations of this or any other establishment, the hours or terms of labour, the agreements of employers or employed, or the qualifications or period of service. I do also further declare that I will not, while in my present employment, call in question the right of any man to follow any honest calling in which he may desire to engage, or of any employer to make what arrangements, and engage what workmen he pleases, upon whatever terms they choose mutually to agree." On the following day, a general meeting of non-society men (skilled workmen) took place at Lambeth, to consider the course necessary to be pursued in consequence of the above resolution. Several workmen addressed the meeting, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: Resolved—1. That in consequence of the conduct of our employers in sending forth a document for us to sign previous to returning to our employment, we, non-society men, are compelled to consider the best means of maintaining our independence and freedom of action for the benefit of all. 2. Resolved—That it is expedient, in consequence of the aggressive acts of our employers, to take into consideration the necessity, as non-society men, of forming ourselves into an associated body in conjunction with the Amalgamated Society, to resist the tyranny of capital. 3. That a deputation from this meeting be appointed to confer with the executive council of the Amalgamated Society, in order to adopt proceedings in reference to joining the above society.

The registrar-general's *Quarterly Report of Births, Deaths, and Marriages* has been published. In regard to the births and deaths, it is for the autumn quarter ending 31st December last; as to the marriages, it is for the quarter ending 30th September. The deaths in the quarter were 99,248—a number below the average. The average deaths of former autumn quarters have been 2 099 of the population; the deaths of the last autumn quarter were but 2 020 of the population. The mortality of the large town districts in the last quarter of 1871 is slightly below the average; but the mortality in the small towns and in the country districts has increased to some extent, and thus left the mortality of the kingdom above the average. In London, 14,355 deaths were registered in the quarter, while only 12,956 deaths were registered in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Scarlatina, measles, small pox, and fever, have been epidemic in many districts, and are still prevailing. There were 1050 deaths by bronchitis; 1053 from pneumonia—showing a prevalence of the tendency to inflammations of the air-tubes and lungs. Consumption was unusually fatal; 157 persons died of this disease, which was the cause of one-eighth part of the total deaths. Typhus or continued fever was fatal in 770 instances, erysipelas in 116. In the South-eastern division of the country, the mortality was near the average—Brighton, however, being extremely unhealthy; in the South Midland division health unusually good; in the Eastern Counties division, the deaths were fewer than usual; in the South-western division, above the average; in the West Midland the average; in the North Midland, very little above the average. The sanitary effects of agricultural improvements in the Newark districts, is strikingly shown by the mortality returns. The village of North Clifton, where the drainage was bad, low fever was seldom out of the place; but now, through the influence of an intelligent farmer, the place has been well drained and

nuisances removed; and, as a consequence, there has not been any fever in the place for about a year and a half. The mortality of Cheshire and Lancashire was above the average of these counties themselves. Their population was 2,063,913, and their funerals 54,938. The mortality of the West Midland division, including the Staffordshire and Warwickshire coal districts, was lower than this, but still too high—the population was 2,122,853, and the funerals 49,238. The registrar-general observes—“The excess of sickness and death in Lancashire is constant; in infancy, in adult age, and in both sexes. Yet the land of a great part of the county is high and salubrious, and the occupation of the people has nothing in it essentially injurious. What then, is wanting? Apparently only this one thing,—that the leading men of Lancashire, animated by good-will, should apply that skill and vigour which have been so successful in the use of machinery and the production of clothing for mankind, to the amelioration of the social condition of the two millions of Englishmen around them.” The births registered in the autumn quarter, ending December last, were 149,155. The births of the whole year then ending, were 616,251. These are the greatest numbers ever registered. The average annual rate of births, in the ten years 1841–50, was 3·261 per cent.; in the year 1851 the rate was 3·428 per cent. To every 100,000 of the population 3428 children were born in 1851, instead of 3261; and there was consequently an excess of 167, or of 5 per cent. The excess appears to have been distributed very generally over the whole country. The deaths in the autumn quarter, having been 99,248, and the births 149,155, the excess of births was 49,907. This was the excess for England and Wales alone—on a population of 17,977,000. In the same period the emigration from the ports of the whole United Kingdom, chiefly Irish, from Liverpool, was 59,200 people. The marriages of the summer quarter, ending September last, were 74,310; this was fewer than in the preceding spring quarter, as is usually the case; but it was also fewer than in the corresponding summer quarter of 1850. Yet the marriage returns of both 1850 and 1851 exhibit the excess which, since 1750, has been invariably observed when the substantial earnings of the people are above the average. The registrar makes this comment on the general aspect of the marriage returns since 1840. The rapid increase of the marriages in England, from 29,221 in the September quarter of 1840 to 37,155 in 1851, is partly due to the increase of the population, and partly to the increased disposition to marriage. In the September quarter of 1841 and 1851, out of 100,000 persons, 365 and 409 married; consequently, out of the same number of persons, 8 married in 1841 and 9 in 1851.

Delegates from the Metropolitan parishes met on the 11th, in the Marylebone court-house, to consider the necessary steps for obtaining a *Reform of the Sewerage and Drainage Organisation of the Metropolis*: Mr. J. A. Nicholay in the chair. The bill introduced to the House of Commons by Mr. Mowatt, last week, was fully discussed, and the delegates resolved that it is in nowise calculated to insure the efficient administration of sewerage and drainage, while it would be heavily burdensome on all the metropolitan districts. A committee was appointed to memorialise Lord John Russell accordingly.

The report of the joint Committee of the Benchers of the Four Inns of Court, on the subject of *Legal Education*, has been published. It proposes to establish five professorships,—of Jurisprudence, Civil Law, Real Property and Common Law, Equity, and Constitutional Law; the institution of regular examinations; and that the degree of barristers be refused to all who have not attended the lectures and passed the examinations. It proposes, also, that for legal education the year be divided into three terms instead of four; commencing and ending—1st November to 22nd December, 11th January to 30th March, 15th April to 31st July. The emoluments of the professors to be a salary of 300 guineas each, and a fifth share of the entrance-fees of five guineas from each student.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen and royal family returned from Windsor to Buckingham Palace on the 13th inst.

The Queen has granted the dignity of an Irish Barony to Mr. Thomas Fortescue, of Ravensdale Park, county Louth, with remainder to his brother Christopher, by the title of Baron Clermont of Clermont and Dromiskien, in the county of Louth.

Her Majesty has given apartments in Hampton Court Palace to the widows of the gallant officers, Pannycuik and Cureton, who fell in the Sikh war.

Sir Harry Smith has been recalled from the government of the Cape of Good Hope, and General Cathcart has been appointed his successor. General Cathcart has sailed for the Cape.

Mr. Henry Cartwright has been appointed Superintendent of the Pond Settlement of British Guiana.

The Bishop of Durham has appointed his son, the Rev. H. J. Maltby, M.A., rector of Egglecliffe, to the canonry in Durham Cathedral, vacant by the death of the Rev. Dr. Durell. This appointment does not prevent Mr. Maltby retaining his living at Egglecliffe.

Lieutenant Pim has returned to England, having failed in his endeavours to convince the Russian government of the practicability of his project for searching the Siberian coasts in quest of Sir John Franklin's expedition.

The Marchioness Falletti di Barolo has married, at Rome, her librarian, the celebrated Silvio Pellico.

Dr. Charles Nicholson, speaker of the legislative council of New South Wales, has received from her Majesty the honour of knighthood.

Mr. Justice Patteson appeared for the last time in the Court of Queen's Bench on Tuesday, the 10th instant. At the close of the business, the Attorney-General, in the name of the bar, delivered a farewell address, expressive of the respect, esteem, and affectionate regard entertained for the venerable judge by themselves and the whole profession. He acknowledged his gratitude in a reply full of feeling, and delivered with great emotion. The strangers who crowded the court joined in the general expression of sympathy.

Jenny Lind has been married at Boston to M. Otto Goldschmidt, a young pianoforte player, who was in London two or three seasons ago. There have been many rumours of the “Swedish nightingale's” marriage during her sojourn in America, but this last account has been fully confirmed.

We understand that the office of Dean of the Arches, vacant by the death of Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, has been conferred on Sir John Dodson, Queen's Advocate. Dr. Twiss has been nominated Queen's Advocate.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

WALTER HUNTER, civil engineer, of Bow, Middlesex, died on the 8th inst., aged 79 years. Unassisted, except by industry, talent, and integrity, he worked his own way to distinction and independence.

LORD DINWIDEN died at Kinnel Park, on the 10th inst., in his 85th year.

ROBERT BLACKWOOD, Esq., one of the firm of the Messrs. Blackwood and Son, the eminent publishers in Edinburgh, died on the 14th inst., in the 44th year of his age.

MADAME VON KOTZBURG, the widow of the author of “The Stranger” and “Pizarro,” who was assassinated at Mannheim by the student Sand, died at Heidelberg on the 4th inst., at the age of 73.

WILLIAM THOMPSON, Esq., of Belfast, the naturalist of Ireland, died in London on the 17th inst. He had come to London to arrange with the Council of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, for their meeting in Belfast in the summer.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT JENNER FUST died on the 20th inst., in his 75th year.

COLONEL GRAYDON, R.E., of the Royal Engineers, died at Montreal, on the 27th ult., after a service of nearly 80 years. He was at the capture of Martinique, in 1809, and Guadeloupe in 1810.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

FROM the latest accounts from *Bombay* it appears that things are assuming a warlike aspect along the line of the north-western frontier. From Peshawur, it is stated, along to Dhera Ismael Khan, the tribes are either in arms, or preparing to take them up against us, and a general rising seems to be meditated. On the frontier a couple of skirmishes had already taken place. A detachment at a place called Muta, four miles from the outpost of Shubbukdr, and to the north-east of Dubb, where the force of Sir C. Campbell has for some time lain inactive, was attacked by a large body of Momunds on the 8th of December. Our party consisted of a party of the guide corps, under Lieutenant Miller; a detail of artillery, under Lieutenant Simeon; and the 2nd Punjab cavalry, the whole commanded by Captain Jackson, of the latter corps. The enemy appear to have thought of taking our men by surprise, but the reception they met with quickly made them fly. The loss of the Momunds was variously estimated at from 8 to 12 killed and 6 wounded. The guides had one man slightly wounded, and a sowar of Jackson's Irregulars, who were too late in the field to pursue the enemy with effect, was struck on the head with a spent ball. It is said that two of the chiefs of the Momunds, named Nawab Khan and Shaikh Abdoola, were both in the fray, and bore themselves very gallantly. The force under Sir C. Campbell had not been molested further than by small parties of the enemy descending from the hills on the camels and cattle while out grazing, several of which they had succeeded in carrying off. The fort at Dubb was proceeding rapidly, and till it was completed the general did not intend commencing offensive operations. The enemy were collecting in large numbers in his neighbourhood in the hills. He had been reinforced by Waller's troop of horse artillery, and some cavalry and infantry. A wing of her Majesty's 53rd, under Colonel Mansfield, while on its way to join his camp, had been directed to proceed to Muta, where they arrived on the 9th of December. The force at Peshawur were on the alert night and day, and the whole of the artillery had been recalled to the station. Messrs. Carne and Tapp, of the salt revenue department on the frontier, have been murdered by a party of natives in the Hazareh. They had been advised to take a guard with them, but they had omitted doing so. The business on which they had gone having been performed, they were on their way back when they were surrounded at a place called Muzafferghur. Mr. Tapp was for fighting their way with the few armed followers who accompanied them, but the treacherous natives promised them so solemnly that no harm would befall them if they gave up their arms, that Mr. Carne unfortunately persuaded his companions to avoid bloodshed. They accordingly gave up their arms, and had no sooner done so, than they were set on by the wretches, and cruelly murdered by being stoned to death. The murderers were demanded of the Chief of Am, whose subjects they were, and after considerable evasion on his part, 28 men were given up to Major Abbott; but it turns out that they had had no hand in the murder, but had been seized merely because they belonged to the same tribe as the murderers, who had never been apprehended by the chief at all. Matters are daily becoming more critical at the capital of the Nizam. His highness's debt has not yet been entirely liquidated, 310,000*l.* remaining to be paid us, and the bankers refuse to advance money to the minister. A monetary crisis has taken place in the city, and credit has fallen to a very low ebb. The Nizam will not pay, and it is probable our government will not allow themselves much longer to be trifled with; appropriation of territory in liquidation of our claim will, after all, most likely take place. The state of affairs in Oude is unsatisfactory; the king gives himself up to debauchery, and corruption in his ministry is loudly complained of.

Accounts of the *Australian gold mines* have been received from Sydney to the 11th November, being a

month later than the previous dates. They confirm all the anticipations thus far entertained of a permanent and increasing yield. At Bathurst, and on the Turon River, operations were being steadily carried forward, and new deposits were found with sufficient frequency to show that the ultimate results are likely to be precisely similar to what has been realised at California. The fresh spots chiefly mentioned are at Braidwood and Lake Bathurst, about 150 miles south of Sydney, and consequently in a direction different to the discoveries hitherto, which have been to the north-west. Including the amount shipped in the present vessel (about 80,000*l.*) the total export from Sydney had already reached 340,000*l.* This was during a period of five months, and as it was estimated also that at least 100,000*l.* was still in the hands of miners, it would appear that the total production has been at the rate of upwards of 1,050,000*l.* per annum. Some considerable quantities of the gold from the Port Philip mines had found their way to Sydney, and had been readily bought on account of their great purity. 1000 ounces, purchased by one party at 3*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* per ounce, were found 71 per cent. better than standard. The scarcity of money, coupled with the wholly disproportionate arrivals of goods and produce, had created a ruinous state of affairs in the import market. Flour had fallen from 25*l.* to 9*l.* per ton, sugar from 23*l.* to 17*l.*, and everything else in proportion.

The dates from *Melbourne, Port Philip*, are to the 6th November. The general rush from Melbourne and Geelong to the mines at Ballarat appears to have resulted in great disappointment, but there was subsequently a reaction in their favour. The police in the district had proved inefficient, and there had been some serious disturbances, accompanied by one or two instances of murder. The Lieutenant-governor, during his visit to Ballarat, had proposed to the miners that they should withdraw for two months, their claims being meanwhile guarded, in order that the crops of the colony should not be destroyed. "This," it is said, "was warmly responded to by a very large majority, so that our harvest may now be considered safe." It remained to be seen, however, whether the resolution would be maintained, and it was likely to be affected by some great discoveries since made at a place called Mount Alexander, which was alleged to eclipse Ballarat, and where it was said one man had obtained 13 pounds weight of gold in 48 hours.

The accounts from *British Guiana* are to the 12th of January. An important public meeting was held at George Town on the 30th of December, for the purpose of co-operating with the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society in an effort to bring the case of the West Indies under the notice of the imperial parliament at an early period of the present session; petitions to both houses were drawn up and agreed to; gentlemen were also nominated to convene district meetings in various parts of the colony, for the purpose of seconding the measures adopted. The neighbouring colonies were expected to take the same course, in which event it was hoped that the case of West Indian distress would be laid before the British legislature with all the authority of a peaceful and loyal people addressing in a constitutional manner the representatives of the empire.

The last accounts from *New Zealand* describe a project which was likely to be carried out for the establishment of steam communication between the various settlements in that colony. Proposals had been submitted at a public meeting at Nelson for the formation of a joint-stock company, with a capital of 10,000*l.*, in shares of 5*l.* each. Two iron screw-steamers, one of 170 tons, and another of 50, would answer the contemplated purpose, and it was hoped that the services hitherto performed by the government brig would be transferred to the company, and that the 2000*l.* a year thus saved would be conceded to them for five years, or until the undertaking should be in a condition to dispense with it.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE most important intelligence from *France* is the promulgation of the new law of the press. The following are its principal provisions:—

"Journals and periodicals treating of political matter or social economy cannot be published without previous authorisation of the Government, which can only be accorded to a born Frenchman. The same authorisation applies equally to the directors, writers, proprietors, and administrators of the paper; and no change can be allowed in the personnel of the paper without express leave of the Government.

"Journals published in foreign countries can only circulate in France by virtue of an authorisation of Government; and those who act as introducers or distributors of foreign journals not authorised, become subject to imprisonment of from one month to a year, and a fine of from 100 francs to 5000 francs.

"The caution-money of a daily journal is 50,000 francs; of a three-days-a-week, 30,000 francs. In towns of 50,000 inhabitants, 25,000 francs; below that number, 15,000 francs. A publication appearing without authority or caution-money will be fined from 100 francs to 2000 francs each number, with imprisonment from one month to two years of the offending parties, with abolition of the paper. The printer will be held equally responsible with the publisher.

"Papers of a certain size, 72 decimetres square, and periodical sets of prints, are to be stamped 6 cents each sheet in the departments of the Seine and the Seine et Oise, and 3 cents elsewhere. Political and social economy writings, not periodical, are to be taxed 5 cents a sheet not exceeding 10 decimetres square; and this is applicable to such writings published abroad when introduced into France.

"Foreign journals are to pay like stamp-duty, except there should be diplomatic conventions standing in the way of the regulation.

"Reports of the proceedings of the Senate are interdicted; but leave is given to copy the articles of the official journal. The same rule applies to sittings of the Council of State with closed doors. Reports of trials of offences by the press are interdicted. The courts of law may equally forbid publication of trials.

"Prints, engravings, medals, &c., must be authorised by the police. Booksellers must take out licenses, under penalty of two years' imprisonment and closing of establishment.

"Offences by the press are no longer to be tried by the Assize Courts (meaning judge and jury), but by the Correctional Police.

"One condemnation for crime, or two for contraventions of the law within two years, cause the suspension of the journal.

"The Government may suspend any journal after two warnings, and for a period not exceeding two months.

"The President of the Republic may by decree suspend any journal."

It is stated that a note has been received from the Emperor of Russia, expressing the distrust which he has felt on being informed of the decrees substituting the imperial eagle for the Gallic cock on the standards of the republic, placing the effigy of the President on the coins, and transferring the residence of the President to the Tuileries. The Emperor sees in these acts preliminaries of an imperial restoration, and of the foundation of a new dynasty, which he cannot countenance. When the arrival of the note or message was notified to M. Bonaparte at the Elysée, he is said to have been much chagrined; he presently had an interview with the Russian representative, to whom he gave formal explanations and assurances, disclaiming the ambitious projects imputed to him.

M. Bocher, one of the executors of Louis Philippe, has been arrested at Paris, in consequence, it is said, of information communicated to the government by the sub-prefect of the Avranches, one of the arrondissements of the department of the Manche. That functionary is stated to have discovered and seized several parcels of documents consisting of addresses to the French nation, proclamations to the army, and copious extracts translated into French from the English papers that have censured the acts of the President and his government, and it is further alleged that these and other papers were transmitted to France on behalf of the princes of the Orleans family. The new Electoral Law has been published. Each department is to return one deputy for every 35,000 electors, and one more in case of the number exceeding 25,000. The suffrage is direct and universal, and the *scrutin* secret. All Frenchmen of

twenty-one years of age, in possession of civil and political rights, are electors, and all electors of twenty-five years old are eligible. A special law will regulate the mode of voting of the army for the election of the President. The number of deputies is to be 261. The Electoral College will meet on a Sunday or a festival day if possible. No armed force can, without the authority of the Electoral College, be present at the sittings, or near the place where the Assembly meets. The Electoral Colleges are convened for the 29th instant.

The Duchess of Orleans has addressed the following letter to the President, refusing the dotation of 300,000 francs per annum, maintained to her in the decree of January 22:—"Monsieur,—As I do not acknowledge your right to plunder my family, neither do I acknowledge your right to assign to me a dotation in the name of France. I refuse the dowry.—HELENA D'ORLEANS."

When Lord Normanby was in Paris to take leave of the President, a whole army of tradesmen presented bills to the amount of upwards of 3000*l*. The Marchioness of Normanby, to whom they desired to speak, answered their demand by showing account books, from which it appeared that all the bills had been paid at the end of the year with the customary regularity of the embassy. It turned out that his excellency's *maitre d'hôtel*, an Italian named Salvador, had embezzled the money with which he had been entrusted to pay the tradesmen. It is said that he admitted the fact, alleging as an excuse that he had been gambling at the Bourse. Lord Normanby wished not to prosecute the man, but the police heard of the story, and have arrested him.

An Attempt was made upon the Life of the Queen of Spain, at Madrid, on the 2nd inst., the day on which she was to go in solemn procession to the church of Atocha, to present the infant Princess Royal to "Our Lady of Atocha." Her Majesty had just heard the mass of childbirth (*mesa de parida*) in the Chapel Royal, and was proceeding along the principal gallery towards the great staircase, when her progress was arrested by a priest who, kneeling, presented a memorial. Her Majesty, believing that he wished to present a memorial or petition, held out her hand to take it, but, instead of a paper, he suddenly drew forth a knife from beneath the folds of his robe, and made a stab at her side immediately above the hip. From the position of her arm, the deed was fortunately but half done; the arm was wounded, and the knife entered under the rib about an inch. The weapon struck her on the front part of the right side, penetrating through several folds of her mantle of velvet and gold, and cutting through the stays, the whalebone of which diminished the effect of the blow. The assassin, at the moment of striking, exclaimed "Toma, ya tienes bastante!" (Take it; you have now got enough!) The Queen's first thought was for her child. "Mi niña!" she exclaimed: "Que cuidan á Isabel!" (My child!—let them take care of Isabel!) She then leaned against the wall, and placed her hand on her side, which was covered with blood. At the same moment Count Pino-Hermoso rushed up in time to parry a second blow, and had his fingers almost cut off. The Princess Royal was between her Majesty and the King, carried on a cushion by the Marchioness de Povar. On hearing the Queen's cry, this lady's nerves failed her, the royal infant slipped of the cushion and fell to the ground! The nurse who followed was pressed upon by the crowd, and sank down in a corner in a fainting fit. When the Queen, after being carried to her room, asked for her child, it is said that nobody about her knew where the infant was, and that it was afterwards found in the gallery in the arms of a halberdier, who had picked the poor thing up. At the time the attempt was made, the ministers were all at the church of Atocha, waiting for the arrival of their Majesties and the royal family. The assassin, Martin Merino, was a native of Arnedo, province of

Logrono, sixty-three years of age, an ex-friar of the Franciscan order, but secularised in 1821, on his own application. He was nearly six feet high, stout-bodied, with a dry, wrinkled countenance, very bright eyes, low forehead, and white hair. He left his convent in 1820. It appears that he had sung mass, and confessed and shriven several penitents, on the day he committed the crime. After he was seized, he was conveyed in a carriage to prison, the multitude in the streets being with difficulty prevented from tearing him in pieces. He was brought to trial on the 5d, and condemned to death by strangulation; which sentence was executed on the 7th, the criminal having previously been degraded from the priesthood. On his examination he declared that he had no accomplices, and his whole conduct was marked with cool indifference. The Queen's wound presented a serious aspect for some days, but she has now entirely recovered. She has presented to "Our Lady of Atocha" the mantle which she wore when she was stabbed, and which was pierced by the knife of the assassin.

It appears by the accounts from *Vienna* that the police of that city are as active as ever. An order has been issued obliging all lodginghouse-keepers, although they may only let a single bed, to make known immediately the fact to the police, with every information about their tenant. In fact, there never was a time, not even during the most despotic period of the empire in France, when policemen intruded more perseveringly and vexatiously into the concerns of private life.

Patacki, the Hungarian arrested at Rendsberg, in Schleswig-Holstein, on the charge of being an emissary of Kossuth, was executed on the 5th instant, for having tried to seduce Hungarian regiments from their allegiance to the emperor.

Intelligence from *Berlin* states, that Privy Councillor Niebuhr, son of the historian, is gone on a mission to London, partly in order to notify the satisfaction of the Prussian court at Lord Granville's appointment, partly in order to inquire into complaints raised that the Prussian ambassador at London, Chevalier Bunsen, in consequence of his family connexions with English society, does not pursue Prussian interests with desirable energy.

Accounts from *Rome* state that the Austrian troops at Ancona have been recently supplied with 16 of the newly-invented German rifles to every company of 180 men. These soldiers are now daily drilling as sharpshooters. It appears that the whole Austrian infantry has been similarly supplied, and the officers declare that these rifles will carry with decided effect upwards of a thousand yards. Great pains are bestowed by the Austrian officers in keeping the troops under their command in the highest state of efficiency. In the provinces occupied by them, soon after daylight, the soldiers are to be seen spread about through the vineyards, hills, and dales, carrying on sham-fights, and other military exercises. In Rome, the Chasseurs de Vincennes continue to improve by practice the deadly aim of their unerring rifles.

The *Belgian* government has just ordered an augmentation of 100 men in each of the battalions of the regiments of the line of the Belgian army. As there are 49 battalions, this will make the total augmentation 4900. It is reported also, that the government intends to apply to the Chambers for a credit of 6,000,000fr. for the establishment of an intrenched camp in the environs of Antwerp, and for putting into a state of defence the Tête de Flanders.

A letter from *Milan* in the *Opinione* of Turin of the 13th, states that the forts of Milan are to be immediately completed, and that the government has established a reserve fund to meet the expenses of a war, in case it should break out. Lombardy is at this moment entirely supporting by her taxes 100,000 men of the Army in Austrian Italy. The population of Lombardy and

Venice is only 5,000,000. The pressure upon the taxpayers is producing extensive emigration.

Accounts have been received from the Coast of Africa of the *Destruction of the Town of Lagos* by the boats of the English squadron, under Commodore Bruce, on the 26th and 27th of December. Lagos is a considerable Negro town on the river You, which flows into the Bight of Benin, and connects Lagos with the town of Abeokuta, another populous place in the interior, under another king. The late King of Lagos had two sons, Akitoye the younger, and Kosoko the elder; Kosoko was rebellious in his father's lifetime, and was banished to Badagry; Akitoye was made the heir of the King by his will. When Akitoye ascended the throne, he invited his brother home; Kosoko went home; and before long he made a party, by whose aid he deposed Akitoye, drove him out of Lagos to Badagry, and made himself King of Lagos. Commodore Bruce, in his despatch to the Admiralty, states as follows the reasons for his attack. "Their lordships are aware that Kosoko very recently rejected the proffered friendship of England, and that he opposed with fire and sword the approach of a flag of truce proceeding to his seat of government with Mr. Consul Beecroft, who offered to negotiate and to advise with him, and who was merely attended by an escort of armed boats, scarcely or problematically sufficient for his personal safety among savages. I therefore determined to send a strong and well-organised force to punish this refractory chief, and having, through the untiring energy and exertions of Mr. Beecroft, procured the attendance of Akitoye and nearly five hundred of his followers near the scene of action, ready to take advantage of a clear sweep when we should make it, I concerted measures with Captain Lewis Jones, of the Sampson, and Captain H. Lyster, of this ship (the *Penelope*), who both were volunteers on the occasion, and entrusted the detail and execution of the service to Captain Jones, seconded by Captain Lyster, and their lordships will see, from the accompanying reports, the complete success with which the enterprise has been crowned." The Commodore proceeds to make an official report of the action, but a more graphic account is given in a letter written on board one of the ships engaged, from which we take the following extracts; premising that the expedition entered the Lagos River on the 23rd, rested on Christmas Day, attacked the town on the 26th and 27th, and occupied it on the 28th. "The attack on the 26th, began at half-past four in the morning. The Bloodhound, with Captain Jones, led in; then the port division of boats, consisting of two paddle and pinnace of Sampson, under command of Lieutenant Saumarez, followed; then the Teazer weighed, with Captain Lyster; and then the starboard division, under command of Commander Hillyar, of *Penelope*, which consisted of her two paddle-box boats, pinnace, and the rocket-boats, each boat commanded by the Lieutenants of *Penelope*, and the rocket party by Lieutenant Corbett, Gunmery Lieutenant. As the Bloodhound steamed up, a terrific fire was opened on her by all the batteries and thousands of musketry; which was returned by her with shot and shell. She got up to her destination with little damage, and then got aground at musket-shot from the platform battery. Then followed the port division of boats, under a complete storm of musketry, grape, round, and canister; which was returned in good style from the boats, who pulled up gallantly, and took up their position opposite a two-gun battery, and which they soon silenced. Then came the Teazer with the starboard division; and, in trying to keep away to bring her guns to bear to cover the port division of boats, unfortunately took the ground, and could not get off. She was there exposed to the fire of twenty guns. Captain Lyster instantly, finding all attempts to get her off of no avail, took the command of the starboard division of boats, and made for the shore, for the purpose of spiking the guns. After firing several rockets they dashed in, and effected a landing, and took one battery by storm, spiking its guns. The enemy charged them on each flank, and a retreat was necessary. The enemy got possession of her paddle-box boat, the cowardly Kroomen having jumped overboard.

A charge was then made to recapture; but finding so many wounded, and two killed, they retreated to the other boats, and embarked; not, however, without the gunner's mate, who was left in the boat, having received two wounds igniting the magazine, and jumping overboard, when he was picked up in Captain Lyster's gig. This left the Teazer quiet, as also the enemy, who took off the heads of the two dead men, and which we have since found in the King's house. During this time the Bloodhound had silenced the batteries; but remained still aground; and the boats proceeded round the north point and silenced one or two more batteries by the time it was eleven o'clock; when they were all recalled, and went to dinner, being annoyed occasionally by the musketry opposite. At one, the Teazer signalled her killed and wounded, and was signalled to close when the tide turned, and she could get off. At two, P.M., the boats of the Sampson, with a spiking party, under command of Lieutenant Saumarez and Lieutenant McArthur, with all his Majesty's artillery, were ordered to land, and spike the guns in the batteries under cover of the Sampson's boat, in charge of Mr. Bayley (mate). When they left the ship, the place opposite looked quite deserted. The boats pushed for the shore; but they had to cut and break through a stockade in the water, the carpenters with axes, the men with tomahawks; when the enemy, who were lying in ambush, opened a terrific fire, and in less than ten minutes, finding they could not cut and force this stockade, they had to return to the Bloodhound, having Lieutenant Saumarez severely wounded in three places, Mr. Richards, midshipman, mortally (since dead), and eleven men severely wounded. The stockades consisted of green cocoa-nut trees, then sand, and then cocoa-nut trees; hence they had no splinters. In each stockade was a trench; so that when a shell was fired at them they jumped in the trench, and hence escaped danger. Each stockade had a ditch to communicate, so that they could reinforce or retreat at leisure. About fifteen feet from the shore, in nine feet water, were a quantity of bamboo stakes, so firmly driven in, and so secure, that 130 pounds of gunpowder could not effect a breach, and hence prevented any one from landing. At 4.30 the Teazer got off, and anchored in deep water; buried her dead, and sent her wounded out of the river. Thus ended the 26th.

"At daylight on the 27th, the Teazer weighed under a terrific fire; which was returned by the Bloodhound and herself, and anchored astern of Bloodhound, having had her gunner, Mr. Howard, as also some men, severely wounded. The rocket-boat then commenced an opening fire, and the two steamers and boat commenced shelling, as also the Volcano's and Water-witch's boats, which had then arrived. The rocket-boat succeeded in setting fire to Tappi, the second chief's house, and the place was in a blaze. Commander Coote then took the boat, with the rocket-boat still in command of Lieutenant Marshall (first of Penelope), and attacked the batteries towards the King's house. This, and a little more skirmishing, lasted till sunset; when the rest of the wounded were sent out. You may imagine their sufferings, when they left at 8 p.m., and were obliged to anchor all night off the bar, and did not reach their ships till next morning at 9.30.

"On the 28th, at daybreak, the town was found deserted, the enemy having left on the other side of the island in their canoes. The forces then landed and took possession; fifty-seven guns were taken and destroyed; the paddle-box boat retaken, with gun; and all belong-

ing to the present king, Akitoey, placed on the throne, and all his men with him. Thus finishes the capture of Lagos, and with it, we hope, the suppression of the slave-trade."

The official return of the killed and wounded exhibits a most serious loss:—

Killed 15, wounded 75. Of the killed, 14 were officers and marines and Kroomen belonging to the ship Penelope, who endeavoured to spike the guns which were firing on the Teazer when she lay aground. Mr. F. R. Fletcher, midshipman of the Penelope, Mr. Thomas Richards, midshipman of the Sampson, and Mr. H. M. Gillingham, master's assistant of the Penelope, were the officers killed; Captain Henry Lyster, Commander C. F. Hillyar, Lieutenant J. Corbett, and First Lieutenant of Marines, J. W. C. Williams, all of the Penelope, with Lieutenant Thomas Saumarez, of the Sampson, were wounded "severely."

The dates from *New York* are to the 11th inst. The political intelligence is unimportant.—The town of Parkersville has been thrown into a state of intense excitement by the arrival of a band of Delaware Indians from a hunting expedition, who brought with them a large quantity of gold dust, finer than California "dust." The Indian, from whom it was purchased, said that he obtained it on this side of the mountains, about 700 miles west of Parkersville.—Kossuth had raised six thousand dollars in Pittsburg and its vicinity—principally from the contributions of the working classes, numbers of whom he has personally visited in the foundries, factories, &c. The Ohio State senators have subscribed five dollars each to the Hungarian fund.

Kossuth left Columbus on the morning of the 9th inst., in company with the joint committee of the legislature, together with the governor and lieutenant-governor. At Xenia, Springfield, Dayton, and Hamilton, he met with enthusiastic receptions, but on account of loss of voice was able to speak but little. About 1000 dollars were contributed on the route, and at Hamilton the people, by a resolution, tendered a loan of 500 muskets in the possession of the county. The train entered Cincinnati amid the roar of cannon. The procession, comprising all the military and fire companies and other societies, formed at the depot, and conducted Kossuth through the principal streets of the city to the Burnett House, where a suite of apartments had been fitted up for him. He appeared on the balcony, and was most enthusiastically cheered, but owing to the delicate state of his health he was unable to speak.

The census of the Mormon territory of Utah has been published. The number of dwellings in the territory when the census was taken was 2322; families the same; white male inhabitants, 6032; white females, 5038; total number of whites, 11,330; free coloured males, 12; and the same number of females; making the total free population, 11,354. There are 26 slaves, all of whom reside in Utah county. The number of deaths during the year was 239; and the number of farms in the territory was 926; number of manufacturing establishments, 16. The total population of the territory, free and slave, amounts to 11,380. There are seven counties, respectively named Davis, Great Salt Lake, Iron, San Pete, Tooele, Utah, and Weber. The most populous of these are Great Salt Lake, with 6157 inhabitants; Utah, with 2026; Weber, with 1186; and Davis, with 1134.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE supply of books which is generally looked for at this basiest of bookselling seasons, has not greatly abated either in quality or number during the past month. We give precedence, as usual, to the graver and more important subjects.

The *Memoirs and Correspondence of Mallet Du Pan*, published some months ago from the papers of his family, has been translated into English, and issued in

two octavo volumes. Mallet du Pan was a journalist of enlarged knowledge and liberal views, whom the agitations of the first French Revolution so little shook from principles already formed before they broke out, that to the opinions maintained in his journal on the meeting of the States General, he adhered until the seizure of supreme power by Napoleon. The book possesses, in consequence, a political as well as historical

value hardly to have been expected from a series of comments and remarks written so directly under the influence of the exciting contemporaneous events recorded in it; and such as, it is to be feared, will not be conceded to Mr. Roebuck's *History of the Whig Ministry of 1830, to the passing of the Reform Bill*, also lately issued in two octavos, and which another generation will be apt to think too political and not sufficiently historical, or, in other words, as written in the presence of the little world of the House of Commons rather than of the greater world without. Mr. Baneroff, recently American Minister at this court, has commenced his long promised *History of the American Revolution*, by a volume which embraces its opening events from the claim of legislative independence in 1748 to the cession of Canada in 1763. Another historical work by an active modern politician is Mr. John Macgregor's *History of the British Empire, from the Accession of James the First*, which, published in two very thick octavos, and getting only so far as the first year of the protectorate of Cromwell, appears to be ambitious of rivaling Macaulay in bulk at any rate. It does not seem probable that the rivalry will be, in other respects, very observable.

A conscientious piece of historical study is embodied in a single octavo upon the *History of England and France under the house of Lancaster*, the introduction to which, presenting a view of the early reformation, contains a disquisition of much value on the extent and influence of Wickliffe's labours. Another very conscientious and learned work is the *Grammar and Dictionary of the Malay Language* by John Crawford (the historian of the Indian Archipelago,) whose preliminary dissertation appears to include the observations and results of some thirty years' observation and reflection in this department of philological and ethnological research. The English translation of Schlosser's *History of the Eighteenth (and Fifteen years of the Nineteenth) Century*, has been completed by the appearance of its eighth volume; and though the worthy Heidelberg professor has observed truly German portions of length and breadth in his lucubrations, yet the history in its finished state, and carefully studied throughout with a view to mental cultivation and progress, deserves the attention of English readers. It is a gratifying proof of the success which waits upon a thoroughly well-designed and well-executed book, that a third edition should have been issued, in two goodly octavos, of Mr. Samuel Sharpe's *History of Egypt from the Earliest Times till the Conquest by the Arabs*. It is a different kind of interest which has called for the republication in two octavos of the *Political and Historical Works of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte*—not simply those very striking works, which, in the form of decrees, have driven the most famous Frenchmen out of France, have dealt with national representatives as if they were common felons, have confiscated private property, and gagged the public press, but also those earlier and less successful performances in which M. Bonaparte dreamt dreams about his uncle, invented fictitious constitutions, promulgated Napoleonic ideas, and flirted with literary socialism and red republicanism.

Mr. Forsyth has written a *History of Trial by Jury*, in which he puts the whole subject in a grave scholarly form, and quietly dissipates the many wild theories still prevalent respecting it. Mr. W. S. Lindsay has compiled a volume on our *Our Navigation and Mercantile Marine Laws*, with a view to their general revision and consolidation. The Rev. Charles Gutzlaff has written the *Life of Taou-Kiang*, the late Emperor of China; and this is now published as a posthumous work, to which, notwithstanding our entire previous ignorance of the said Taou-Kiang, we cannot but apply ourselves with some interest as the biography of a man who has ruled over three hundred and fifty millions of men; but it is a little disappointing, as everything which relates to the flowery empire would seem destined to be. Mr. Benjamin Thorpe has published three volumes on *Northern Mythology*, comprising the principal popular traditions and superstitions of Scandinavia, North Germany, and the Netherlands, treated in a manner not unworthy of Mr. Thorpe's well-known attainments in this field of erudition. Professor Creasy has contributed to a subject of much present interest, a volume descriptive of

the *Invasions and Projected Invasions of England from the Saxon Times*; and, in elucidation of the same existing or supposed emergencies of the state, we have a small anonymous brochure of *The French in England, or, Both Sides of the Question on both sides of the Channel*, being the story of what the Emperor Napoleon wished and failed to effect.

Several distinguished men connected with King's College have issued a *Manual of Geographical Science, Mathematical, Physical, Historical, and Descriptive*. An able Scotch divine, Mr. Paul, has published an important contribution to Hebrew scholarship, and the elementary knowledge of that language, in the form of an *Analysis and Critical Interpretation of the Hebrew Text of the Book of Genesis*. Several new *Letters of Percy Bysshe Shelley* have appeared, with an introduction by Mr. Robert Browning. An American biography of considerable interest, and from the contributions of various hands, has been published in three volumes as the *Memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli*. A new edition of Hartley Coleridge's "*Biographia Borealis*" has been sent forth in three thick duodecimos, by his brother, with the better title of *Northern Worthies*; and with several curious notes by the elder Coleridge, of which those relating to the lives of Fairfax, Derby, and Marvel, are noticeable for their strong sympathies with the Parliamentary as opposed to the Royalist cause. Mr. Francis has collected, as not unlikely to be acceptable just at present, the *Opinions of Lord Palmerston as Minister, Diplomatist, and Statesman*, during his forty years of public life. Lord Ingestree has published, under the title of *Meliora; or, Better Times to Come*, a number of essays touching the present state and prospects of society, written by men who for the most part have already taken a prominent part in the agitation of the respective social subjects suggested for treatment. A north-country angler has brought together into an agreeable volume *The Coquet Dale Fishing Songs*; a resident in India has written a volume (chiefly for its illustrations it would seem) on *Life in Bombay and its Neighbouring Outstations*; a sister of Miss Strickland's (Mrs. Moodie) has made public some not very agreeable emigration experiences in Canada, which she styles *Roughing it in the Bush*; two other ladies (Miss Sinclair and Mrs. Ballfour) have respectively presented the public with a small book of slight polemics, entitled *Popish Legends or Bible Truths*, and with another small book of yet slighter literary criticism, called *Sketches of English Literature*; Mr. Cole has put together a volume of notes on *The Cape and the Kaffirs*, drawn from a five years' residence in the colony; Mr. Blanchard Jerrold has written a useful little volume on *How to see the British Museum in Four Visits*; and Mr. Murray has supplied a want in official statistics by a popular *Hand Book of Church and State*, compiled by Mr. Samuel Redgrave.

In fiction the publications have not been numerous. We have only to notice, since our last report was made, Mr. Bell's *Hearts and Altars*, Capt. C. Knox's *Confessions of Country Quarters*, and a novel called *The Heir of Ardenman*.

The *British Institution* opened its 46th Annual Exhibition on Saturday, the 7th inst.

The Queen has granted a charter of incorporation to the General Theatrical Fund, whereby it will now be placed on an equality with the funds of Covent-garden and Drury-lane theatres.

The veteran Braham has re-appeared at the Wednesday Concerts at Exeter-hall. He had an enthusiastic reception.

A five-act play entitled "*Woman's Heart*," written by Miss Vandenhoff the actress, has been produced at the Haymarket with success; Miss Vandenhoff herself, performing the part of the heroine. At the same theatre, Mr. Barry Sullivan, a provincial actor of some note, has made his metropolitan debut in the character of *Hamlet*, and has been well received.

The St. James's Theatre has opened for French plays, as usual, at this season. Mademoiselle Dejazet and M. Lafont are the present stars.

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.] FROM THE 26TH FEBRUARY TO THE 27TH MARCH. [PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

HE is a prudent man who reads the newspapers just at present for anything but their politics. Immediately after our last Narrative closed, the public business of the country resolved itself into a game of question and answer, not remarkably well played on any side. Enough of it (perhaps a little too much) will be found in a subsequent page. The result has not inaptly been compared to what fell out when the South Sea bubble was started. Everybody with shares, or, as one may now say, in buckskins and top-boots, is waiting for what is expected to return everybody so attired a splendid profit on an unknown capital by a concealed investment. Such is the effect and amount of expectation that nobody is heard any longer to declare himself ready to shed the last drop of his blood for protection to native industry. Even the Chowlers have become conscionable and patient. Awful doubts may be lurking in some quarters, but there is perfect quiet in all. Even the Anti-Corn Law League, after reviving itself with much vigour, yields to the languor that prevails. Sir John Trollope described his friend and colleague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the other day, as a gentleman of ancient blood although of Eastern origin; and it is with something of that silent suspense of expectation which "Asian mysteries" are said to inspire, that all the world is waiting for the Protectionist budget.

Such are among the penalties of government by means of honours of lords and commons. It has its inconveniences; and if any one would measure them by comparison with another mode, he may do it without travelling far a-field. The ready and easy way to govern a commonwealth with the least possible inconvenience to those who govern, is in daily course of exemplification by M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. He does everything by decree. By decree he not only makes a constitution, but by decree he works it. He has remodelled the army by decree. By decree he has made the judges removable. He has decreed a budget. One of his decrees has filched not a few of their earnings out of the pockets of the bourgeoisie of Paris, who looked on more quietly than at present, while blood was flowing in December. The University of Paris finds itself remodelled by decree. A decree suspends salutary terror over even the type-founder and the copper-plate printer. A direct government inspection, by decree, is in future to take charge of science, philosophy, law, religion, letters, taste, and the fine arts. From Arago to Jules Janin not a man now holds the pen in France but finds himself within a *cordon sanitaire*. The lowest investigation on the earth, and the last discovery in the heavens, must hereafter pass beneath the censorship of M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. Not a professor in that once great university of Paris now holds office for a day, nor a number of the once witty *Charivari* can now laugh for an hour, beyond the pleasure of a St. Arnaud or a Persigny.

Hardly had the University decree been placarded

on the walls of the French capital, when there followed the decree for settling the rights and forms of proceeding of the senate and legislature which are convoked to meet upon the day when this Narrative will be in the reader's hands. And what a laugh would have gone ringing over Europe at this last public document, if France had still enjoyed the power to laugh without permission of its government! Its first instruction is that both senate and legislature are to go and wait upon the President, and take an oath to be faithful to him; for the administering of which oath surely Rabelais should be called out of his grave. Then all the rules for the conduct of the respective assemblies are laid down. They have no power to initiate anything. They have no power substantively to amend anything. They cannot put the simplest preamble to a bill, lest the reason for passing it should be a reproach for not having passed something better. No member is to be allowed to speak without having asked and obtained leave of the President; and the President is not to be appointed by themselves, but to be named by M. Bonaparte. A member who has been called to order for having interrupted a speaker cannot himself be allowed to speak. All signs of approbation or disapprobation are interdicted. If a member twice called to the question elicits a third call, he may be expelled from the sittings for five days. When the previous question has been moved, it is to be put to the vote before the general question, thus disposing of the possibility of a shadow of effective opposition; while at the same time, on propositions made by M. Bonaparte, the previous question can never be demanded, thus removing the possibility of a check to anything started by government. The President regulates by special order the mode of reporting in the newspapers what is done; and a member who would even print and distribute at his own cost the speech he has delivered, must first obtain the authorisation of the assembly. How long such a state of things is likely to last in such a city as Paris, the reader may exert his ingenuity in guessing.

Certain is it that on even the remote shores of South America violent despotisms come to violent ends. What was said in our last Narrative of the impending turn of fortune against Rosas has since come true. The dictator of Buenos Ayres fled last month before the forces arrayed against him, and, in the dress of a common seaman, with his daughter disguised as a cabin boy, found refuge in a British man-of-war, under the flag he has so often defied. He had foreseen his downfall sufficiently early to provide for his support in exile, and it is announced that he is already on his way to London. It may be worth while to mark the reception he meets with. Let it be remembered that his system of government, for full twenty years, has been a system of oppression, terrorism, and bloodshed; that he has insulted our navy, obstructed our commerce, shut

the vast and fertile regions which he governed from all contact with European industry and trade, closed the free navigation of their wondrous rivers, and laughed at the just demands of foreign creditors plundered by his merciless dictatorship. Let us see whether such recollections will now interfere with his claims as a lion on what is called the fashionable world, and if the hand of him who so ruthlessly trampled on human rights will be taken with grasp more cordial than a man driven to our shores for his defence of liberty would have any chance in such quarters of receiving. The question is one of some interest; because, till the vulgar high world shows some sense of discrimination in such things, the vulgar low world will be apt to claim the right to express its opinion also respecting them; as, on a memorable occasion two years ago, it did somewhat roughly. Let us add that such rough demonstrations, however evil in themselves, are not wholly so in their results. The single stool which Jenny Geddes flung with such good aim at the head of Laud's pretended bishop, finally overthrew the entire Scottish bench episcopal; and nothing so effectively checked the march of Puseyism in a certain western diocese of England, as certain rough movements in its churches a few years ago not more defensible than old Janet's in the Scotch kirk of St. Giles.

The wretched gibberings of that half-animated ghost of the middle ages are not yet however wholly extinguished. 'Ye Mother Superior,' Miss Sellow, has very lately again been heard of in the shades of that charitable little conventual retreat near Plymouth, where she persists in doing good in her own very odd and unaccountable way: mixing up real charity with mock popery, offending the people she serves by exacting fantastical observances from them, rioting in ceremonious absurdities, playing the fool with alms and pictures, prescribing and justifying confession, ordering such penances to rebellious "sisters" as that they should make the sign of the cross on the floor with their tongues, shutting up obdurate sisters who would not so lick the dust as an "act of proper self-abasement," and forcing even Dr. Philpotts at last to withdraw his name from her establishment as visitor, while he still remains her "faithful, admiring, and affectionate friend." The affection of the bishop to ye Mother Superior on this occasion, appears to be the sort of admiration in dissension which we have also just been told was wont to exist between Dr. Pusey and Mr. Ward, when (as the latter faithful follower of the Pope now confesses) "at a time when Dr. Pusey knew me to believe that all sincere Anglicans are bound to labour for the revival of the Papal supremacy, he told me that such a belief, though he did not hold it himself, need be no hindrance to the continuance of my ministrations in the established Church." Amiable, certainly; though, for a dignitary holding benefices in the Established Church, perhaps a little lax. But holding such opinions, how the good Dr. Pusey must have been scandalised at the conduct of the Lord Chief Justice on the home circuit the other day, who, because he did not himself hold the belief of the Roman Catholic high sheriff of Buckinghamshire, thought it really *ought* to be a hindrance to his own toleration of the state-attendance and services of the zealous sheriff's Roman Catholic chaplain.

On that and other circuits the reader will see that there has been no lack of crime, and less reluctance than usual in juries to convict in grave cases. It is doubtful if more than two murderers have escaped in these Spring Assizes; but it is fortunate that in the Lewes murder the witnesses were plentiful, for it will be observed that testimony which might have been important was refused because of an objection taken

by the judge. A boy of eight years old was thought not to understand sufficiently the moral obligations of an oath, because, though he knew it was a wicked thing to tell a lie, and was aware that something would be done after they were dead to wicked people who told lies, *he did not know what it was*. Now, if this boy had said that he knew what was done to such people (which certainly the learned and conscientious judge would be reluctant himself to say he knew), the law would have been satisfied, and no more questions asked; yet because he did not know how to feign that he did know, he is rejected as untrustworthy. It is a great pity that ordinary common sense has not a larger share in governing such customs of jurisprudence.

It will be observed that by another time-honoured custom and fiction of law, by which our Chancery takes care of all property that cannot take care of itself, the celebrated case of the old lady who has such a passion for cats is again before the public. It is not many weeks since Mrs. Cumming, of the mature age of seventy-six, and with the moderate fortune of something less than five hundred pounds a year, was upon solemn inquisition formally found to be insane. The object of the inquiry was to take care of her property. It lasted sixteen days, employed a round dozen of lawyers, and abstracted from the property it was so anxious to protect no less a sum than six thousand pounds. That is, the old lady might have lived till she was eighty-eight, squandered away every year insensibly every shilling of what she possessed, and found her property at the end of twelve years precisely in the exact condition to which it was brought in sixteen days by the law's tender care for its preservation. But this is not all. The Lord Chancellor now discovers, by a recent interview with the old lady, that her condition is at least sufficiently rational to justify her in demanding another inquisition. He expresses no opinion of her competence to spend her own money, but of her competence to dispute her own insanity he entertains no doubt whatever. Another inquiry is therefore ordered, and it is to be very economical, to save the law from reproach. A satirical person might remark that economy has become necessary were it but to save the lawyers their fees; but it would on every account be well were occasion taken of this flagrant case to settle whether the principle of expenditure in future commissions of lunacy is to be regulated by the chances of discovering the truth, or to be lavish simply in proportion to the extent of the estate. There can be doubt of what custom has hitherto put in practice.

And if custom were ground for continuance, what chance (to take another and final topic for illustration) would improved public feeling in the matter of bribery possess against those supposed interests of public men and public-house keepers which will soon be rampant through our towns and counties in all the saturnalia of a general election? There is nevertheless nothing more certain than that election bribery, venerable as prescriptive custom may have made it, has really of late been falling into disrepute. The worthy member for the now nearly disfranchised St. Albans may continue to find food for a joke, in the not very decent connection which he is not to be permitted to renew; but that the subject has its gravities as well as its gaieties, he has also lived to find out. Nor is there much to discourage the hope which a public writer lately threw out, that we are at last, by the progress of ideas, and the diffusion of a somewhat higher refinement than our house of commons is always able to represent for us, not unlikely to drift on to the time when men will be ashamed, publicly at least, to parade the vicious advantages they have taken of the vices of their fellow-men: and when the same public

opinion which has put down slavery and all but abolished the duel, will also place the only efficient check on the immorality of the bribe by branding it as ungentlemanly and dishonourable. When this happy day arrives there will be no more such scandals against the characters of public men as the last month has made lamentable contribution to, and it will be as rare to meet with the affected prudery of a Roebuck as with the unblushing audacity of a Copdock.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Friday, Feb. 27, the Earl of DERBY made a statement explanatory of his *Reasons for taking office, and of the Policy he proposed to adopt*. After an eloquent testimony to the character of the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Derby said that he would not enter into speculation upon the question whether the Commons' vote of yesterday week had caused the retirement of the late cabinet, but he would only remark that so little had he expected such a result from the discussion that followed it, he had actually left town. On Saturday, however, he was apprised that next day he was to attend the Queen, in order to the formation of a new ministry. Aware of the weighty difficulties in his way, but also aware of the weighty responsibility of leaving the crown and the nation without a ministry (for he saw no prospect of any other administration than his own being formed), he had decided that it was his duty to accept office. The concurrence of nearly all whom he consulted enabled him at once to submit to her Majesty the outline of a ministry, and to fill it up in the four or five subsequent days. He then proceeded to an explanation of his proposed policy. Peace with foreign nations would be his aim, and this he conceived would be attained neither by large preparations nor by Utopian schemes of disarming, but by calm and conciliatory conduct, both as regarded act and word, and by the strictest adherence to the obligations of treaties. He was for rigidly respecting the rights of all nations, great and small, to govern themselves in their own way, denying, that however justly proud we might be of our own admirable constitution, we had any right to political sympathies or prejudices with regard to the form of government other nations might adopt. As regarded our defences, he thought we should keep up the preparations wisely made by his predecessors, so as to screen the country from possibility of invasion, and he declared his belief that never either was our army or our navy in a more efficient state than now, although our armament was in no condition to excite the just jealousy of other nations. He was certain, that were invasion threatened, the three kingdoms would rise as a man, but thought that their undisciplined efforts would be unsuccessful. Alluding to the attempt that had been made to re-organise an old constitutional force, he deprecated the doing this in any mood of unnecessary panic, which would tend to render our preparations less efficient than they would otherwise be. As regarded refugees, while declaring that England was the natural refuge of all exiles, he said that it was the duty of the latter not to abuse our hospitality, and if they did, although government would not descend to espionage, it ought to keep a guard over them and warn their governments, but we could go no further so long as they avoid the punishable offence of attempting to levy war. He would come now to more difficult questions—those of finance and commerce. In 1812 he had given his warm support to the financial measures of Sir Robert Peel, to his revision of the customs, and his legislating on a principle which Lord Derby had then understood Sir Robert to mean was that of imposing duties on articles of import, not only with a view to the revenue, but with reference to the basis they afforded for the operations of the British manufacturer. He contended that where the entire supply of an article came from abroad the whole increase of price caused by taxation fell upon the consumer, but that this was not the case where the article was partly of foreign and partly of home supply, and he would not shrink from declaring

his opinion that there was no reason why corn should be the solitary exception to the rule. But an opposite principle to that which he had approved appeared of late years to have been adopted, and he contrasted our policy with that of America, which latter he thought the most defensible. But he repeated that this was but his opinion, and though a revision of our financial policy might be desirable, it was a question only to be solved by reference to the clearly expressed and well understood opinion of the intelligent part of the people. So large and comprehensive a scheme required to be dealt with by a government strong in the confidence of the people, not by one called suddenly to office. He did not know whether he had a majority in that house, he knew he was in a minority in the other, but he had not felt that the public interest would be consulted by a dissolution at this period of the year and in this condition of the world. An humble but not useless task devolved upon his government, which, in the face of the conviction that he could not command a parliamentary majority, he would undertake. Government would have to appeal to the forbearance of its adversaries and to the patience of its supporters, but he had too much confidence in the good sense of the house of commons to believe that it would unnecessarily take up subjects of controversy while there were legal and social reforms for which the country was anxious. He should act, he trusted, though in a minority, neither uselessly nor dishonourably; but if he were interrupted by faction, he should have the consolation of knowing that it would recoil upon its promoters. In reference to the measures introduced by the late government he said he was most desirous to crush corruption to the utmost of his power, but that, as regarded the proposed reform bill, he should not follow it up, and he warned his hearers, especially members of the house of commons, against the danger of perpetually unsettling everything, and settling nothing. He did not contend that the system established in 1831 was perfect, or did not require amendment, but he wished to be sure that a proposed remedy would not aggravate the evils complained of. He had heard that Lord John Russell had in some way mixed up the question of education with that of the franchise, with which it had nothing whatever to do. As regarded education, the feelings of all classes had united in the conviction that the more you educated the safer was the country; but he was opposed to the mere acquisition of secular knowledge, dissociated from the culture of the soul. And although he looked on all engaged in education as his fellow-labourers, his chief reliance would be on the parochial clergy. To uphold the Church as the depository of truth and the agent of incalculable good, would be the object of his efforts; but this he thought should be done, not by invective against those whose errors we deplored, but by resistance to all aggression, and by lending all aid in the cause of church extension. There his lordship's statement terminated; but he added that, awful as were the difficulties in a minister's way, the destinies of the nation were in the hands of an over-ruling Providence, in whose presence he solemnly declared that no motive of personal ambition had induced him to take office, and that no motive save the incentive of duty should actuate him while holding it. He should trust to higher guidance than his own, and be his tenure of government long or short, he should have attained not only the utmost height to which ambition could aspire, but the highest end of human reason, in being permitted to make an effort in the cause of the happiness of the nation, and in the spreading peace on earth and good will among men.—Earl GREY admitted the frankness with which the Earl of Derby had explained his financial policy, but protested against some of the principles which he had avowed. He argued against the doctrine laid down by Lord Derby, that taxation on an article produced partly at home and partly abroad did not raise the price to the full extent of the duty levied. He said that theory and practice were in favour of the soundness of free trade views, and he had heard with consternation that Lord Derby proposed to apply an unsound system to the food of the people.—The Earl of Derby explained that he had stated his own opinion, but had no intention of making any proposal on the subject until public opinion could be decidedly expressed upon it.—Earl

GREY professed himself greatly relieved, and (after some further interchange of observations between himself and Lord Derby) implored him not to let any long time go by before explaining the 'views of government on the question, as there was no transaction between landlord and tenant, in trade, commerce, or manufactures, that was not affected by their being in ignorance on so important a subject, and one on which it was the duty of an administration to have an opinion, and submit it to parliament.—Earl FITZWILLIAM thought that the new government ought to be allowed time to mature its measures, and that no factious opposition should be offered to it.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE was dissatisfied with some of Lord Derby's remarks in reference to the intercourse of this country with foreign nations, and thought his language as to the corn laws was likely to involve in embarrassment every transaction affected by them. He complained also that Lord Derby had not been sufficiently explicit as to his intentions in regard to the "protestant securities" of the country.—The Earl of ABERDEEN coincided with Earl Grey, and declared his own firm adherence to the policy of the late Sir Robert Peel. He was equally prepared to oppose a duty on corn for revenue or for protection. At the same time he entirely acquiesced in the policy which the noble earl's government intended to pursue towards foreign powers.—In reply to some remarks of Lord Brougham, the Earl of DERBY explained that, independent of more exciting topics, the government certainly proposed to deal with measures for legal reform and social improvement, both of which were called for by the country.—The house then adjourned upon an understanding that judicial and private business only would be taken until after the re-election of those members of the government who belong to the other house.

On Friday, March the 12th, Lord BEAUMONT gave notice that on Monday he would (on the presentation of a petition) ask Lord Derby whether or not it was the intention of government to recommend to parliament any alteration of the present corn laws as soon as another parliament could be assembled.—The Earl of ESSEX deprecated any attempt upon the part of the government to re-impose any duties upon corn, whether under the name of protection or revenue; and said, if such an attempt were made, he should oppose it.—Lord LYNDEHURST, after remarking upon the agitation set on foot by the Anti-Corn-law League, for the purpose of procuring a dissolution, observed upon the detriment which such an interruption of public business would cause to the progress of the measures for law reform now before parliament.—The LORD CHANCELLOR stated at considerable length the intentions of the government with respect to the measures now in progress on the subject of *Reform in the Court of Chancery*. As to the necessity for legal reforms there was no division of parties, and her Majesty's government were quite as anxious as their predecessors to proceed in this direction. The noble and learned lord then mentioned the several measures, and gave an analysis of their objects, describing in great detail the extent to which he intended to support them. In the course of his observations he stated it was intended to abolish at once the whole course of proceeding in the Master's office, and that the judges in the Court of Chancery should adopt the same rules as would govern a judge at Chambers.—Lord BROUGHAM expressed great gratification at hearing from his noble and learned friend that he intended to adopt entirely the recommendations of the Chancery Commissioners, and he recommended that the Criminal-law Commission should be renewed at the earliest possible period.

On Monday, the 15th, Lord BEAUMONT presented a petition from certain inhabitants of the West Riding of Yorkshire, praying that they might be relieved from the uncertainty which existed as to the maintenance of free trade; and put the question to Lord Derby whether or not it was the intention of the government to recommend an alteration of the present policy with regard to the *Importation of Corn* as soon as a new parliament could be assembled.—Lord DERBY denied that there was any greater necessity for the solution of the free-trade question now than before the accession to power of the present government. A great party in the country

had declared that the question could only be solved by a general election, and in proportion as the formation of the present government rendered the prospect of such an election more immediate, in the same proportion did its accession to power render the solution of the question more certain. For his own part he thought that the appeal to the constituency ought to be made as speedily as was consistent with the great interests of the country, but at the same time he must declare that neither taunts, nor calumnies, nor mortifications would induce him to recommend a dissolution one moment sooner than he thought it expedient. He had assumed, he would not say office, but its responsibilities, from no party motive of his own; the late government fell by their internal weakness, by their own notorious incapacity, by the lukewarmness of their friends, and by their own quarrels. They had declared a dissolution inexpedient for themselves, and he wished to know with what face they now came forward in factious opposition and sought to drive him to appeal to the country after his declaration that the system of free-trade should not be altered during the present session, but that the attention of the government would be solely directed to those great measures of legal and social reform on which the heart of the nation was set. If the business of the country were factiously interrupted, the evil that might result would be visited, and justly visited, on the heads of those demagogues and agitators who caused that interruption. Though he desired to repair the injustice which certain classes of the community had sustained by the repeal of the corn-laws, and though he thought it might be possible to do this by imposing such a duty on corn as would realise a large revenue, while it enhanced the price of the food of the people in an almost inappreciable degree, such a step could only be taken after careful deliberation, and then not by a bare majority, but after an expression of very general concurrence on the part of the country. He would even go further, and declared that when he appealed to the country it would be on far higher grounds, and not on the question of a paltry duty on corn. The question he would then ask the country would be, "Will you give your confidence to the men who deserted the helm of the state in the hour of danger, and then joined in factious opposition to render all government impossible? Or will you rely on the government which did not shrink from the post of danger, which is determined to uphold the protestant religion, to strengthen religious and moral education, to resist the aggression of those demagogues who employ their power over the masses only to mislead them, and to maintain the prerogatives of the Crown and the privileges of parliament?" These were the principles on which he should appeal to the country, and he would, therefore, conclude in the words put into the mouth of the meanest criminal, but not unworthy of the First Minister of the Crown, "I elect to be tried by God and my country."—Earl GREY characterised the answer of the noble lord as evasive, and complained that the course ministers were taking, in not immediately appealing to the country, was unconstitutional.—The Earl of Abinger, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Harrowby, and other peers, spoke on the subject, which was allowed to drop without any more detailed information being elicited.

On Tuesday, March 16, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE inquired whether ministers intended to propose any alteration in the present application of public funds for *Educational Purposes in Ireland*.—The Earl of DERBY thought, under existing circumstances, the subject was a proper one for a committee of inquiry, but beyond that he was not prepared to pledge himself. In expressing his regret that the protestant clergy had stood aloof to some extent, he suggested that it would be well to consider whether, without departing from the existing system, it might not be possible to remove or mitigate their objections. In principle there was no objection to giving assistance to schools exclusively Roman Catholic if it were extended to schools exclusively Protestant. The only question was, whether it was possible to combine the independence of internal management with government superintendence. These were subjects which a committee might well investigate. He was most anxious that Roman Catholics as well as

Protestants should have, under government superintendence, the advantage of a sound moral, literary and religious education.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE deprecated any hasty interference with a system which had been more successful than could have been anticipated.—The Earl of DESART and the Earl of ROSEN spoke briefly against the national system, and the subject dropped.

On Thursday the 18th, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, after moving for certain returns of the police force in the United Kingdom, which were granted, asked whether it was the intention of the government to adhere to the decision of the late government not to give *Aid to Volunteer Rifle Corps*. The Earl of DERBY answered that the government concurred with the decision of the late ministry on this subject.

The Earl of SHUTESBURY moved an address to the Crown in furtherance of the establishment of a *State Lunatic Asylum for the Custody of Criminal Lunatics*; but the Earl of Derby objecting, the motion was after some discussion withdrawn.

On Friday the 19th, the Duke of NEWCASTLE, in presenting a petition from the Manchester Commercial Association, deprecating any return to protection, and requiring that the country should be relieved from the anxiety and uncertainty consequent upon the non-explanation of the ministerial policy, declared that he could give no support to ministers until they announced that they had no intention of attempting the re-imposition of a corn duty. He asked whether they were prepared to *Dissolve Parliament with the least possible delay*.—The Earl of DERBY said that he had not observed any such anxiety as the petitioners spoke of. He admitted the desirability of an early settlement of the commercial policy of the country, and also of the larger question,—by whom should that policy be administered. For such a settlement he was as anxious as the noble duke, and he would go so far as to say that he thought next autumn should not pass over without a new parliament having had an opportunity of declaring conclusively the verdict of the nation on the course of policy proposed by her Majesty's government. He would give no pledge inconsistent with his duty to the Crown, but as far as in him should lie, the ordinary and current business of the legislature should not be interfered with by discussions on the general financial policy of the government.—In the conversation which ensued, and in which Lord Bateman and Lord Wodehouse spoke, the Earl of Aberdeen and Earl Grey expressed themselves satisfied with the answer of the Premier.

On Monday the 22nd, Lord BROUGHAM laid on the table a bill to *Amend an Oversight in the Statutory Law, touching the Assembling of Parliament by Proclamation of the Crown*. At present a new parliament could not be assembled until 50 days from the time of the proclamation; and the object of his bill was to reduce the time from 50 to 25 days. He had brought the bill forward because if any of his noble friends behind him (the opposition) had done so, their motives might have been questioned. He took the opportunity of impressing upon their lordships the absolute necessity that existed for taking immediate and stringent steps to put down the bribery and corruption which was now practised at elections. They were approaching a dissolution of parliament, and he hoped before that event took place some measure would be brought forward to put an end to bribery at elections. He was satisfied that bribery at elections would never be put down unless the member returned were compelled to make a searching, stringent, thorough-going, and sifting declaration that he had not directly or indirectly been guilty of bribery. The Earl of DERBY did not see any objection to the introduction of the bill. At the same time, he thought it was a matter which ought to be debated in parliament.—There were occasions when the shortening of the period between the proclamation and the assembling of parliament would be most desirable. With reference to the subject of bribery at elections, he said that a bill had been introduced by her Majesty's late government, the essential provisions of which had been adopted by the present government, and it was now under the consideration of the other house of parliament.—The Marquis

of BREADALBANE said the corruptor appeared to be a greater culprit than the person corrupted, and they ought to see if some severe measure could not be adopted to punish him.—The bill was then read a first time.

On Tuesday, the 23rd, the LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the *Bill for Amending the Law of Wills*, and after explaining the inconveniences which attended the existing system of signatures, proposed that the bill, if it met with their lordships' approbation, should be forwarded through all its stages as speedily as possible, in order that it might pass before Easter.—Lords Brougham, Cranworth, and Ellenborough having given their support to the bill, it was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Lord BEAUMONT then called the attention of the house to the *State of Affairs on the River Plate*, and having given a sketch of the history of the various republics watered by that river, from their origin down to the recent expulsion of Rosas, asked several questions connected with the trade and commerce of those republics, and concluded by urging on the government to lose no time in entering into negotiations for establishing a free navigation along the Plate, Parana, and Paraguay rivers.—Lord MALMESBURY replied that it was not in his power to answer all the questions put by the noble lord at present, but as soon as he had heard of the expulsion of Rosas, he put himself into communication with the government of the French republic, for the sake of renewing such negotiations with the states along the River Plate, as would contribute to the peace of those states and the commercial interests of both nations.—The Earl of ABERDEEN expressed his satisfaction at what had fallen from Lord Malmesbury. The independence of the Oriental republic, which was the main object of our interference in the River Plate, was now accomplished. Having had some experience in these negotiations, he was anxious to testify that nothing could have exceeded the good faith with which France, both as a monarchy and a republic, had acted towards us in the affairs of the River Plate, and he was therefore glad to hear that the noble lord had put himself into communication with the government of that country, with regard to the recent occurrences at Buenos Ayres.—Some further discussion took place, in the course of which Lord Malmesbury promised to furnish Lord Beaumont with a copy of the last despatch received by the government relating to the expulsion of Rosas.

On Thursday the 25th, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH having given notice of a question on the recent hostilities with Ava, the Earl of DERBY stated that though a collision had taken place between the East India Company's forces and those of the Sovereign of Ava, no war had yet been declared. He was not in a position to give any detailed information until the arrival of the next mail. Lord MONTAGUE moved for a select committee on the *Irish Consolidated Annuities Act*, and instanced numerous cases of hardship resulting from the enforcement of the repayment of the advances. The Earl of GLENGALL supported the motion. The Earl of DERBY consented to grant the committee, and admitted that a revision of the law was necessary for the purpose of affording relief to those localities which had obtained the advances only for the purpose of preserving the people from starvation.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Friday, Feb. 27th, the SPEAKER was directed to issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown for *New Writs for Elections* in those places which are represented by members of the government.—Mr. BRAMSTON moved for a new writ in respect to the borough of Harwich, a proposition which elicited a debate of considerable animation. Eventually it was withdrawn.

Mr. C. P. VILLIERS gave notice that, upon as early a day as he could procure after her Majesty's ministers had taken their seats, he should submit a resolution to the house declaratory of its intention to preserve the *Policy of Free-Trade, and to resist any attempt to reimpose a duty upon foreign Corn*. The house adjourned for a fortnight.

On Friday, March 12th, the majority of the newly-elected ministers took the oaths and their seats. New

writs were moved in consequence of the acceptance of office by Lords Newport and Galway.

Lord J. RUSSELL said that he had introduced the *New Reform Bill* as a minister of the Crown, in pursuance of the speech from the throne; and as he did not think that, as an individual member, he should be able to carry it, he would move that it be read a second time that day three months. He would not, however, preclude himself from bringing forward, if he should think proper, a general resolution upon reform and extension of the suffrage.—Mr. HUME regretted that Lord John Russell had taken such a course.—Mr. WILLIAMS was glad that such a bill had been abandoned.—Mr. T. S. DUNCOMBE complained of the condition in which the question of reform was left, and urged upon Lord J. Russell to bring in a bill which would satisfy the country. Was such a question to be left to an anti-reform government?—Mr. Grantley BERKELEY's opinion was that Lord John Russell had done quite right in withdrawing the bill. The motion was then agreed to.

On the order of the day for the second reading of the *St. Albans Disfranchisement Bill* being read, Sir G. GREY said that he would leave the bill in the hands of the government.—Mr. WALPOLE accepted the care of the bill.—Mr. Jacob BELL pleaded against the disfranchisement of the borough, and, by way of showing that St. Albans was no worse than other places, went into a minute description of the dishonest practices habitual with election agents. He urged the alteration of the bribery laws, which, he considered, were defeated by their own severity; and he moved the adjournment of the debate, expecting, he said, a petition from St. Albans. No seconder of the motion appeared.—Mr. HUME complimented the government on their having taken up the bill, and urged them to pursue the purification of the constituencies.—Sir De Lacy EVANS also thanked the government for adopting the bill, and hoped he should have their support when moving the disfranchisement of Harwich. The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Friday.

On Friday, March 12th, Lord John RUSSELL announced that he did not intend, as a private member, to press on the *Parliamentary Reform Bill* of the late government; but hinted that he might probably move a resolution pledging the house on the subject of the extension of the franchise. The *Bribery Prevention Bill* he hoped to proceed with.

Mr. WALPOLE, on the part of the government moved the second reading of the *St. Albans Disfranchisement Bill*, which was agreed to after an ineffectual opposition on the part of Mr. BELL only, whose amendment fell to the ground for want of a seconder.

The *Personal Estates of Intestates Bill* passed through committee.

On Monday, March 15th, Sir J. PAKINGTON (in reply to a question put by Mr. J. Wilson, with reference to the *Sugar Duties*.) said that, as a member of a government in an acknowledged minority in that house, it was his duty to take the course best suited for the object in view—the relief of West India distress; and as there was nothing in the case of the sugar duties which should make it an exception to the policy which her Majesty's government had avowed their determination to pursue—not unnecessarily to press upon Parliament during the present session questions which it would be better to reserve for another Parliament—it was not his intention during the present session to bring forward his motion. The opinions he had repeatedly expressed upon this subject had, however, undergone no change, but her Majesty's ministers had determined that this question, like others of a similar nature, ought to be reserved for a future Parliament.

In reply to a further question, Sir John stated that the reduction of duty which was to take place on the 5th of July, would not be interfered with.

In answering a question by Mr. Adderley, Sir J. PAKINGTON said he had thought it his duty to send out a despatch by the present mail, pressing upon the Legislative Council at the Cape of Good Hope to take the legislative ordinances sent to the colony into early consideration.

Mr. C. VILLIERS rose to make an inquiry of her

Majesty's ministers as to the policy which the present government intended to pursue for the regulation of our *Foreign Commerce*, and especially that portion engaged in supplying food for the people. The country, he observed, had been more perplexed by the information which had been furnished upon this subject than if it had received none. It wished to know whether, and in what way, and how soon, her Majesty's present ministers were prepared to bring forward the policy they had advocated when in opposition, in order that it might be relieved from suspense. He said that the change of ministry had inspired an apprehension of a change of policy, which would disturb all the material interests of the country; peace and comfort had given place to uncertainty and alarm. Even if the people were indifferent to privileges which had rendered their condition so prosperous, that house should not be silent, but should tell them that the precious gift was about to be taken from them. He asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, therefore, to make a candid and open avowal of the intentions of the government upon the subject of their policy in relation to foreign commerce, and especially whether they meant to reimpose a duty upon foreign corn.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, though he questioned the reality of the alarm and distrust to which Mr. Villiers had referred, was ready to respond fairly and frankly to his challenge. Casting a retrospective glance upon the course he had taken with respect to the question of Protection—which, he said, he had distinctly declared, as an abstract question, was no longer to be considered in that house until an appeal had been made to the country—he observed that her Majesty's present ministers believed that very great injustice had been done to the agricultural and other interests since 1846, and that it was desirable, for the benefit of all classes, that this injustice should be redressed. But they were not pledged to any specific measures, and though he would not, to gain popularity, propose in a future Parliament a moderate fixed duty upon corn, yet he would not, to avoid bluster, give it as his opinion that such a duty was one which no minister under any circumstances ought to propose; but the proposition should not be made until the verdict of the country had been obtained. He then announced the measures which the government proposed to bring forward—namely, first, the bill already introduced for the disfranchisement of St. Albans, in connexion with which he should hereafter explain the intention of the government with respect to the distribution of the vacant seats; secondly, Chancery reform; and, thirdly, a measure for the internal defence of the country. Having thus explained the course of ministerial policy, he called upon Lord J. Russell to explain with equal frankness the principles upon which the new opposition was to be conducted, in which Sir James Graham and Mr. Cobden were to be auxiliaries; and he concluded by declaring that he and his colleagues trusted to the sympathy of the country, which he was convinced would support them in their attempt to do their duty to their Sovereign, and in their resolution to baffle the manoeuvres of faction.—Lord John RUSSELL said he was glad of an opportunity to obviate the misrepresentations which had been made upon the subject, by stating the reasons why the late ministers, who would have been worried out of office, had resigned. Having given these explanations, he adverted to the unusual, if not unconstitutional, attempt of the present ministers to conduct the government with a minority in that house. A question was asked, "What is to be the price of the food of the people?" and the house was told that next February they might learn something about it, but at present the mouths of the ministers were closed. The same with colonial and other questions, respecting which Mr. Disraeli with the word "frankness" upon his lips, had given no explanation whatever. Lord John then described the policy of the late government, under which, he observed, the country had flourished in an unexampled degree, avowing his belief that there never was a system which had conduced more to the benefit of the country than the commercial policy commenced in 1842. If this policy was maintained, the country would, he said, continue to flourish; but it could not be suspended, it must be active and progressive. The course proposed

by the present ministers of holding these questions in suspense, though highly convenient to themselves, was most inconvenient to the country.—Mr. HERIOT contended that the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the only answer which, under the circumstances, could be given. He disputed the alleged prosperity of our shipping trade, which, he contended, was passing into the hands of foreigners. Even the augmentation of our exports proved nothing as to the success of the new commercial system, since our exports had largely increased under the old system.—Sir J. GRAHAM rose, he said, in consequence of the challenge of Mr. Disraeli to state the grounds of the opposition he was assumed to be about to offer to her Majesty's government, and he would explain the view he took of the present crisis of public affairs. He was not about to offer any factious opposition to the government; but the question now at issue, he considered, affected the happiness and well-being of every individual in the community. It was not a question of a 5s. or a 7s. duty upon corn, but whether the whole of a commercial policy should be reversed, the result of which had far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its authors. He had no doubt whatever as to the policy intended by the present government—namely, to dissolve Parliament, for the purpose of imposing a duty upon imports, and among them a duty upon corn. In order to prove this, he read a series of avowals made by Lord Derby, that a reversal of the free trade policy was indispensable. His lordship's explicit declaration to this effect had prevented Mr. Gladstone last year, and Lord Palmerston lately, from becoming his colleagues in the government. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had disclaimed any appeal *ad misericordiam*; but the Earl of Derby had expressly said he knew he was in a minority in that house, and that he relied upon its forbearance; and he (Sir James) denied that any instance could be found in parliamentary history of such an admission and such an appeal, which, he contended, were at variance with our representative system. Addressing himself, then, to the allegation that agricultural property had diminished, he denied its accuracy, which was inconsistent with the facts, that, while the surface of arable land had not decreased, large sums had been expended in draining and manure, and that 355,000 acres of waste land had been inclosed in England alone. Meanwhile, taxes had been remitted to the amount of 4,200,000*l.*, and yet the receipts into the Exchequer had increased by 4,800,000*l.* Sir James stated various facts in corroboration of his assertion that our late commercial policy had been eminently successful, and he warned the house of the consequences of reversing that policy, the maintenance of which was the single object he had in view in joining the opposition. In almost the last conversation he had had with the late Sir R. Peel, that lamented statesman had declared to him that there was no effort he would not make to maintain the free trade policy, which he considered indispensable to the peace and happiness of the country; and there was no effort he (Sir James) would not make, and no sacrifice he would not encounter, to uphold that policy.—Mr. GLADSTONE regarded the subject in two points of view—first, the duty of the house in regard to the position of the government; secondly, its duty in respect to the question of Protection. Upon the first point he observed, that the house was entitled to ask from the government a distinct assurance that after the despatch of necessary business the Crown would be advised to appeal to the country. To obtain that assurance was the main duty incumbent upon the house, which should not allow subjects not of pressing necessity to be dealt with by a government in a minority. With respect to the other point, it was said there was no intention to reverse the policy of free-trade, only to alter and modify it; but he was opposed to the modification as well as to the reversal of that policy, and he desired to bring the question to a prompt and final decision, if not in this Parliament, in a few months in another. On the whole, he was disposed to press one moderate and just demand upon the government, that the business of the country should be expedited with all possible despatch, and that the Crown should then be advised to appeal to the sense of the people.—Lord PALMERSTON said, he wished shortly to state his view of the present position

of the government and the duty of the house. The former was perfectly anomalous, and in principle unconstitutional, for it was proposed to carry on the business of the country in a house of commons where the ministers were in a minority—a state of things which could not last. A dissolution, in the state of public business, was admitted to be impossible; the house, therefore, ought to exhibit forbearance towards the government, and assist it in carrying through the necessary measures, until they had so disposed of this business as to enable them to dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country. Having taken the sense of the people, Parliament should be called together at the earliest period to come to a final decision upon this great question.—Mr. M. GIBSON said, the question was the propriety of urging the government to a speedy dissolution of Parliament, and he strongly impressed upon them the necessity of this course, to save the country from the evils of allowing a question of this kind to be left in uncertainty and jeopardy.—Mr. NEWDEGATE, as a Protectionist, was content with the declaration of Lord Derby, his object being justice to the great interests of the country, and a modification of a policy which had created great distress. He disputed the assertion of Sir J. Graham, that the quantity of corn grown in this country had not diminished under the present policy.—After some remarks from Sir A. COCKBURN and Mr. BOOKER, the house went into committee; and a vote of 39,000 seamen and marines for the ensuing year, and votes of sums for their wages and victualling, were agreed to.

On Tuesday, March 16, Mr. DISRAELI, having been questioned by Mr. Hume, denied that there were any papers in the Foreign-office granting the *Territory of Sarawak* to the British Commissioner at Borneo, or that the British flag had been hoisted at Sarawak.

Lord Robert GROSVEHOR, in putting a question to the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests on the subject of the *Ventilation of the House*, drew a dismal picture of the sufferings members were compelled to undergo while attending to their legislative duties. If something were not done speedily he anticipated fatal consequences.—Mr. W. PATTEN made a similar complaint in regard to the committee rooms.—Lord J. MANNERS expressed the desire of his department to do all that was possible to remedy the evil. Dr. Reid's report, which had just been presented, would be considered, and Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney had been asked to give his opinion on the subject.

Mr. Secretary WALPOLE, in reply to questions from Mr. T. Duncombe, intimated that it would depend on the continuance of the session, and the state of public business, whether any measure would be substituted for that of last year, which had failed in its object, of carrying out *Extramural Internments*. Nothing could be done in reference to the *Metropolitan Water-supply* until they had the report of the select committee on the subject. And, in answer to another question, the right hon. gentleman intimated that the *Crystal Palace* would be removed by the 1st of May.

Mr. MUNZ complained of the unfairness with which Mr. Archer, the inventor of the *Machine for Perforating the Sheets of Postage Labels*, had been treated by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and moved for a committee of inquiry; upon which Mr. GROGAN interposed an amendment, to direct the inquiry to the present mode of engraving, printing, and gumming the postage label stamps; and likewise whether and how the perforating machine, invented by the patentee, could be applied to the same with advantage to the public.—To the motion so amended the government, through Mr. G. A. HAMILTON, consented.

Mr. J. STRAET submitted a resolution, pledging Parliament to grant assistance towards the formation of a *Railway Communication between Oban, in the Western Highlands, and Glasgow*, with the view to provide employment for the people, and to improve the condition of the country. He quoted the grants made for facilitating Irish railroads as justifying the application.—The motion was supported by Mr. MACGREGOR.—Sir G. STRICKLAND was opposed to the granting of public money for such works on principle, and in the present case especially, when the object was to form a

railroad through an uninhabited and mountainous district.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, without laying it down as a rule that the state should in no case assist in forwarding enterprises of this nature, thought no sufficient grounds had been shown justifying such assistance in the present case. He did not deny that a railroad would be an advantage to the district, but he reminded the mover that there was an annual grant applicable to such purposes. Supposing the object to be a proper one, and it were put forward on sound data, an application made to the Loan Commissioners of Public Works for a grant would meet with due attention.—Sir A. CAMPBELL reminded the house that the proposed railway partook more of a public than a private work.—Mr. HUME was satisfied that the only remedy for the distress in the Highlands was emigration. He saw no advantage that could result to the country from a railroad in the district in question, where there was no traffic to make it remunerative.—After some further conversation, Mr. F. SCOTT moved the adjournment of the debate for a fortnight, to give the Chancellor of the Exchequer an opportunity of further considering the subject, which was agreed to.

Mr. NAPIER moved for a select committee to inquire into the *State of the Disturbed Districts in Ireland*, the object being to ascertain the cause of the crime which had disgraced those localities, and the sufficiency or insufficiency of the laws to meet the evil. As proving the organisation of ribbonism, he quoted the charges of the judges at the special commission, the failure of justice in so many instances arising from the intimidation or complicity of jurors and witnesses, and the open-day murders committed almost with impunity. No doubt, if it could be properly administered, the law would be sufficient; but to do this they must convince the people—who were now prevented by terrorism from aiding the law—that the law could vindicate itself and protect them. He recommended an alteration in the jury laws, in order that juries to try cases which affected the security of life and property should be composed of a class of persons who would not be likely to be intimidated; and, as an additional safeguard, he would suggest that the judges should have the power to direct the trial to be held in another part of the country. He thought, too, it might be wise, under certain restrictions, to re-enact the law making it penal to be in possession of signs and pass-words.—Mr. HATCHELL took on himself all responsibility in regard to the late special commission, and explained the cause of the failure of justice, suggesting, at the same time, that where it had failed, the Crown had still the power to try the parties in other parts of the country. He admitted some alteration was necessary in the jury laws, but deprecated any change which should interfere with the liberty of the subject.—Mr. McCULLAGH ascribed much of the outrage in Ireland to the want of confidence existing between the owners and occupiers of land, the neglect of the duties of property, and the wholesale evictions that were from time to time carried on. He denied there was any necessity for changing the law because in a particular district there had been a difficulty in obtaining convictions.—After a few words from Mr. GROGAN, the motion was agreed to.

The second reading of the *Manchester and Salford Education Bill* was moved on Wednesday, the 17th, by Mr. BROTHERTON, who stated that the measure had originated with the inhabitants of those boroughs, amongst whom were three parties, all desirous of promoting education, but who differed as to the means, the bill being promoted by the party in favour of a combined religious education, whilst only the advocates of the voluntary system opposed the bill altogether.—Mr. M. GIBSON moved, as an amendment, the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the state of education in Manchester and Salford, and to report whether it was desirable to make any and what further provision for the education of their inhabitants by means of local rates. He looked upon this as a very extraordinary private bill. The reasonable mode of dealing with this subject was by settling the general principles of a measure applicable to the whole community, and then to allow particular localities to avail themselves, if they thought fit, of the general provisions. So important a

change in public policy should be preceded by inquiry. Independently of this preliminary objection, he disliked some of the provisions of the bill, though not averse to the supporting of education by local rates.—Mr. ROEBUCK seconded the amendment.—Mr. WALPOLE, commending the motives of the promoters of this measure, and desiring to assist them, thought the house should not sanction the second reading of the bill, but should adopt the amendment, with some alteration. The rating clauses of the bill would supersede the voluntary efforts of religious bodies to contribute to the education of children of the humbler classes, and the making all schools open to all children was a principle the consequences of which should be well weighed. There were other principles in the bill which required consideration, and he recommended the house, as the safest course, to adopt the amendment, omitting the words relating to local rating.—Lord J. RUSSELL agreed in the main principles laid down by Mr. Walpole, and thought the promoters of the measure could not do better than consent to the appointment of a committee, and suspend the bill until the committee had made its report. Lord John indicated his views upon the subject of these schools, which, he believed, could only be supported by something in the shape of a local rate. He concurred in the great principle contained in the bill, that education ought not to be purely secular.—After some observations from Sir R. INGLIS, Mr. W. J. FOX, and Colonel THOMPSON, Mr. GIBSON consented to alter his motion as suggested, and after a few remarks by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, the second reading of the bill was deferred for a month, and a select committee was appointed.

On Thursday, the 18th, Mr. REYNOLDS moved a resolution, pledging the house to consider *the Losses sustained by the Depositors in the Cuffe-street Savings Bank*, with the view to granting them compensation.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER resisted the motion, on the ground that the 30,000*l.* granted in 1850 was paid as a settlement of the question.—Mr. H. HERBERT advised Mr. Reynolds to withdraw the motion, which it would be scarcely fair to the present government to press at the present moment.—Mr. NAPIER said that, as this was a question between the depositors and the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt—in other words the public—their losses ought to be made good. He rejoiced to say that the whole subject was now under consideration, with the view of preventing such defalcations in future.—Mr. HUME expressed a similar opinion as to the right of the depositors.—Sir H. WILLOUGHBY considered all savings banks should be placed under the control of some responsible officer. It was well known that the funds in these banks had not been used on the principle of a trust.—Mr. SCULLY and Mr. GROGAN spoke in favour of the claims of the depositors, and Mr. W. WILLIAMS in favour of an alteration of the law, so as to afford security to the depositors and the public.—Mr. REYNOLDS insisted on taking a division, the result of which was the loss of the motion; 149 against 40 votes.

On Friday, the 19th, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER being questioned on the subject, intimated that government intended to propose the continuance of the *Irish Incumbered Estates Commission Act*, which expires in July next, for another year.

On being further questioned by Lord John Russell as to the intentions of government with regard to the *Dissolution of Parliament*, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that it would be highly indecorous and impolitic for ministers to say they would advise her Majesty to dissolve at any specific period, for circumstances might arise to prevent the performance of the pledge, if given. He was, however, prepared to say, that it was the intention of government to advise her Majesty, so soon as those measures necessary for the public service and good government should have passed, to dissolve the present parliament; and he added, that this would be done sufficiently early to enable the opinion of the new parliament to be taken on the policy of the ministry in the course of the present year.

The house then went into a Committee of Supply, and Major BERESFORD brought forward the *Army Estimates*, stating that they were the same which had been prepared by the late government. A very long

and desultory debate ensued, embracing almost every topic connected with the policy of the new administration.—Mr. OSBORNE maintained that the house ought to grant neither money nor men to a government in which it had no confidence.—Mr. CORBEN insisted that the house was bound to bring the present parliament to a close by constitutional means, in order that the question of free-trade or Protection might be brought to a conclusion.—Lord John RUSSELL observed that there were two questions—one the constitutional question, the other as to the commercial policy of the last ten years. With regard to the first, the present government, he thought, had taken a course for which there was no precedent in our constitutional history, and for which there was no ground in the maxims and rules of the constitution. They proposed to go on to the end of the session, upon the assumption that they were in a minority; in November or December parliament might be dissolved, and they were to meet the house of commons again in February. The pretence put forward by the present ministers, that it was a surprise to them to be called to take office, which nothing would have induced them to do but the pain of seeing the Sovereign without advisers, was, he contended, a false pretence, since it was totally inconsistent with their conduct last year, whilst the majority in favour of Lord Palmerston's motion consisted chiefly of members and supporters of the present government. Having proposed to take an extraordinary course—that of carrying on the government for eleven months without the confidence of that house—they sought to cover their conduct by every kind of false pretence. Lord John then proceeded to the second point—the hazard to which our commercial policy was exposed—and after justifying his own views towards the agricultural interest, and reviewing the supposed plans of the government for modifying or revising the general taxation, he insisted that the country was entitled to know the issue it was to try; that if he and his friends showed forbearance, they ought not to be treated with contumely or in a supercilious manner. The Earl of Derby, he added, had tried to raise another issue, which he had no right to raise; he alleged that he was minister in order to prevent the outbreak and encroachment of democracy. But it was by the policy which had been of late years pursued, whereby the people had become more attached to the constitution and to constituted authorities, and less desirous of change, that democracy could be effectually met.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that Lord J. Russell had declared that there were two questions before the house. He would remind them, however, that the question was much simpler—it was the first motion of the newly constructed opposition, a motion for stopping the supplies. Upon that question the government intended to divide. He charged Lord John Russell with faction for forcing his successor, instantly on his accession to office, to do that which he had himself declared unadvisable. Commenting upon Lord John Russell's sudden change of his policy upon a subject of such immense importance, he reiterated that all the precedents his lordship had cited applied to condemned governments. In reference to the Chesham-place meeting, he said, that had Lord John Russell confined it to his "friends" (those who voted with him on the militia bill for instance) nothing might have been said to an assembly for mutual consolation; but Lord John Russell had asked his enemies, those who had perpetually made him uncomfortable, and to them he had announced, that to please them he would change his policy, and would be ready to convert an oligarchical into a broad-bottomed ministry. After further retort upon Lord John Russell, he repeated that this was a motion to stop the supplies.—Lord John RUSSELL: "There is no such motion before the house."—Amid much excitement reference was made to Mr. Bernal, who stated that the only motion before the house was the original motion for the vote of men.—Lord John RUSSELL and Mr. CARDWELL (to whom the Chancellor of the Exchequer also referred) having severally disclaimed any idea of refusing the vote of men, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER expressed pleasure that, on second thoughts, both had seceded from Mr. Osborne, and proceeded with his reply, asserting the good intentions of government, and denying that its

course was unconstitutional. Why was he to assume that Lord John Russell could command a greater number of followers than themselves? He believed himself perfectly justified in the course he was taking. Nothing had occurred to shake his confidence in the good sense of the house of commons, or to induce him to believe that any good measure brought forward by government would be rejected, nor would he condescend to speak as a minister existing by sufferance. If Lord John Russell acted in the factious spirit of the convention to which reference had been made, he did not believe he would have the support of the house. Answering that part of Lord John Russell's speech which referred to Lord Derby, he explained expressions in that speech which he said Lord John Russell had stooped to misinterpret, and he concluded with a glowing eulogium upon the Premier.—Further observations were made by Mr. Bright, Mr. W. Miles, Mr. Cayley, the Marquis of Granby, and Colonel Thompson; and Mr. OSBORNE having intimated that he had no intention to divide the house on the estimates, the vote of men for the army was agreed to.

On Monday, the 22nd, Mr. SCHOLEFIELD asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the government intended to acquiesce in the decision of the judges in the case of the "*Queen v. Publishers of the Household Narrative of Current Events*," and if not, what course the government meant to pursue with regard to other publications issued under similar circumstances?—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the case had been referred to the law officers of the crown, who would confer with the late law officers, and when he was informed of the result of their opinion, he would be able to give an answer to the question.

On the order of the day, for going into a committee of supply, Lord John RUSSELL took occasion to make some observations on the *Ministerial Explanations* which had been given since the Monday preceding. "I was then anxious," he said, "to ascertain (considering the position of the government) the policy they intended to pursue, and the measures they proposed to bring forward in the present session. I was told that, as they were in an acknowledged minority in the house, they could not bring forward any measure with regard to our commercial policy. I was also told, that they intended to bring forward measures of considerable importance, which would have led to a session of the usual length. It struck many members of the house, during the debate, that this course was so unusual, that it ought not to be acquiesced in. It would not have been unusual, if we had been asked for the forbearance of the house, in consequence of the new government being in a minority, or if we had been told that they would bring forward measures in which they were in a majority; but to claim forbearance as a minority, and confidence as a majority, appeared to me to involve a great contradiction. At the close of the debate on Monday evening, being unwilling to come to any vote to limit the supplies, or to declare any resolution adverse to the government, I asked the right honourable gentleman, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the government, between that and Friday evening, would reconsider the course they intended to pursue. It appeared to me to be a fair and conciliatory question, and was certainly intended to prevent any angry debate or adverse vote of the house immediately on the formation of a new government. The right honourable gentleman did not seem to take it so, and only answered by taunts and sarcasms. On Friday, a statement was made by the right honourable gentleman with regard to the course which the government meant to pursue, which was somewhat ambiguous; but I heard from others that a statement had been made elsewhere by the noble lord at the head of the government, which indicated clearly the course which the government, of which he is the chief, intended to pursue. I understand that the noble lord did not complain of the question which was put to him, to which I was no party, as to the view he took of the present state of affairs. He stated (and I think he was right in so stating) that he would not bind himself or the government to cause a dissolution of parliament at any particular moment, as there might be circumstances

which might prevent it taking place, but that as soon as all public measures of urgency were disposed of, he would advise an early dissolution of parliament, with a view to its re-opening before the close of the autumn. It appears to me that this declaration is so far satisfactory. I think that as matters stand, it would be advisable for us to proceed at once to consider the naval and army estimates, and I trust those votes will be agreed to without much discussion. There is another class of estimates—I mean the miscellaneous estimates, about which it is not now necessary to say anything, as they will come on at a later period, and perhaps we shall be better informed then as to the intentions of the government. It is clear, after the intimation of the noble lord at the head of the government, that there will be a dissolution of parliament in May or June, and such will be the ferment in the country, with a view to the new elections, and the canvassing of counties and towns, that I think it will be better if that dissolution is not delayed longer than the exigencies of the public service absolutely require. There is only one measure of which the right honourable gentleman the Secretary for the Home Department has given notice, I mean with regard to the regulation of the militia: I am willing to see such a measure introduced, and I will offer no obstacle to its introduction; but I do not give any pledge with regard to it, as when it comes before the house, they will be able to judge whether it is such a measure as they think ought to pass; and I shall be at liberty to form a judgment upon it. With respect to other measures which the government may introduce, it will be competent to the house, if they do not think them to be of urgency or importance, to cause them to be postponed. Such being the state of affairs, if the house should coincide with me in that view, I propose that another day in the week should be given to the government; and that when the notices now on the book are disposed of, that Thursday should be a government day, and that on other days orders of the day should have precedence."

Lord John RUSSELL afterwards inquired of the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he had rightly understood that no change was to be made in the constitution of the *National Board of Education in Ireland*, or in the system of combined education, which had been successful in bringing Roman Catholics and Protestants into the same schools.—Mr. WALPOLE replied that there was no intention to make any alteration in the principle of combined education, but it was intended to consider whether, consistently with that principle, some alteration might not be made in the mode of administering the system, which would be more satisfactory to members of the Established Church.—Mr. OSBORNE observed, that if Mr. Disraeli had been as explicit in this house as Lord Derby had been in the other, he should not have attempted to delay the supplies, and he should not offer any further opposition. He thought, however, that Mr. Walpole's explanation as to the national education system in Ireland was most unsatisfactory and evasive.

Sir De Lacy EVANS moved a resolution that it is inconsistent on the part of the government to propose an *Augmentation of the Armed and Paid Forces* while they refuse and discourage offers of gratuitous service, having for their object the formation of rifle companies and regiments for the national defence.—Mr. HUME, in seconding the motion, observed that the statements of the government in both houses were satisfactory, and it would be impossible to refuse to appeal to the country as soon as measures of absolute necessity were passed. As to the Militia Bill (which Mr. Walpole had promised to introduce on Monday next), he hoped the government would reconsider the subject, and not entangle themselves with a militia bill.—Mr. F. MAULE thought the government should be allowed to develop their views upon the subject of a militia.—Sir R. INGLIS hoped that the acts of Lord J. Russell and those around him would correspond a little more with their professions than on Friday.—Mr. BRIGHT suggested that the Militia Bill, when brought in, should stand over until after the general election, as one of those measures upon which the opinion of the country ought to be specifically asked.—Sir J. TYRELL congratulated the noble lord

upon having come to his senses, and found out the mistake he had made.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER congratulated the house and the country upon the announcement that there was not to be any further opposition to the granting of supplies. He was pleased to hear from so high an authority as the leader of the combined opposition, that there was to be no further obstruction to public business. The ministers were not less anxious than the noble lord that an appeal should be made to the country, as soon as the votes were passed which were necessary for the service of her Majesty, and those measures were carried which were requisite for the security and good government of the realm.—Mr. WALPOLE having disclaimed any intention on the part of the government to show anything like distrust or discouragement towards those who desired to form volunteer corps, Sir De Lacy EVANS withdrew his resolution.

The house then went into committee, when certain votes for the army were agreed to, and the committee then proceeded with the *Navy Estimates*. On the navy vote of 134,632*l.* for admiralty salaries, Captain PECHELL asked what were the intentions of government with regard to the *Building of Iron Steamers*, the *Patronage of the Dockyard*, the *South African Squadron*, *Naval Retirement*, *Naval Reserve*, the *Conveyance of Specie on board Ships of War*, a system fraught with gross partiality; and *Medals for Naval Actions*. He stated that with proper management the navy was effective for the defence of the country without any additional expense.—Mr. STAFFORD excused himself from giving detailed information on the various questions connected with naval expenditure, on the ground of the short time he had been in office. As to the building of iron steamers, there would be considerable reluctance in the new board to continue it. With regard to the dockyards, he hoped some plan would be devised by which deserving naval officers might be rewarded, and the efficiency of the yards increased. Of the policy of keeping up the African squadron he would give no opinion; but, whilst it was continued, it would be maintained in an efficient state. The dead weight of the half-pay and naval allowances would be kept as low as possible.—Admiral BERKELEY thought the adoption of the present estimates, and the course taken by the new Admiralty Board in general, was a sufficient answer to all the charges which, while in opposition, they had brought or supported as against their predecessors. To make our navy perfectly effective, it was absolutely necessary we should have a reserve of seamen.—Mr. W. WILLIAMS animadverted on the enormous charge of maintaining our dockyards. Of the 5,600,000*l.* now voted for the navy, only about 2,000,000*l.* were necessary for what might be called the sinews of war, the rest being expended wastefully, in paying officers who were not employed, half-pay, dock-yard appointments, and other similar items. He considered the promotions under the schemes of 1846 and 1851 as jobs, which had unnecessarily increased the half-pay. The proposed naval reserve was unnecessary, if our sailors were in all cases properly treated.—Some further conversation took place, in the course of which Sir F. BARING expressed an opinion adverse to the maintenance of a large fleet in the Channel, as likely to induce France to take a similar step, and lead in the end to additional expense; and Captain SCOBELL offered various suggestions for the improvement of the navy. In the end the vote was adopted.

Mr. RICARDO inquired whether it was the intention of government to alter the present policy with regard to the *Shipping Trade*. Mr. HERRIES said, he had stated before, and he restated now, that to reverse that most unwise policy would be difficult, and, in some respects, impossible.—Mr. LABOUCHERE had understood that this was now considered a settled question, and he appealed to the state of the ship-building trade as decisive evidence of the success of the late policy. At no period had there been such activity in our great ship-building yards as at present. Mr. G. F. YOUNG, on the other hand, declared that the ship-building trade was in a most disastrous condition. He referred to recent returns, showing that, while British tonnage was declining, foreign tonnage had increased.—Mr. W. BROWN, on the contrary, read statements which proved

the increase of British shipping.—Mr. HUDSON asserted that the ship-builders at Sunderland were prosecuting their business at a loss; while Mr. EWART insisted on the prosperity of the shipping trade at Liverpool.

The motion for going into committee on the *Sailors in Chancery Reform Bill* afforded an opportunity to Sir W. P. WOOD to impugn what he said was an unfair and unfounded statement made by the Lord Chancellor in the Lords, to the effect that the present government when they came in, found no trace of measures to carry out the recommendation of the Chancery Reform Commission; the fact being that everything had been done as far as time would allow (the report having been made only on the 27th of January, a week before the meeting of Parliament,) to carry out the recommendation of the commission.—Mr. J. STUART thought his honourable and learned friend's explanation fully bore out the Lord Chancellor's statement, for he had admitted there was not time to prepare the bills.—Some further explanation on the same point took place, after which the bill passed through committee *pro forma*.

The *Copyright Amendment Bill* and the *St. Albans Disfranchisement Bill* went through the same stage; in the latter case after a last appeal from Mr. J. BELL in favour of his constituency.

On Tuesday, the 23rd, Mr. FREWEN moved a resolution, that in any remission of taxation the *Repeal of the Excise duty on Hops* ought to be taken into serious consideration. He founded his motion upon the facts that the amount paid into the Exchequer on account of this tax did not exceed, upon an average of three years, 269,000*l.*; that it was the only tax which had never been mitigated, and that it pressed with great severity upon the hop-growers, and was producing distress and ruin in his part of the country.—Mr. J. L. HODGES supported the motion.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, it was admitted that it would be improper to press government for any pledge upon this subject, which, at a fit time, would not escape their attention. Under the circumstances he hoped Mr. Frewen would not require a more definite answer.—Mr. HUME and Mr. Henry DUMMOND urged the repeal not only of this tax, but of the malt tax.—Mr. CORBEN thought that upon every ground of expediency the obnoxious hop duty ought to be repealed. The malt tax stood upon a different ground; its repeal must be accompanied by an equivalent reduction of the expenditure. He recommended Mr. Frewen, if he really wished to succeed, to press his motion to a division, as the budget had not yet appeared, and this was a condemned parliament.—Mr. FREWEN, however, was satisfied with the answer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and would not put the house to the trouble of dividing.—The motion, accordingly, was withdrawn.

Mr. M. MILNES moved for copies of the correspondence between her Majesty's government and foreign states respecting the *Protection afforded to Refugees*, in continuation of the correspondence already presented. He was anxious to have these papers prior to bringing forward the motion of which he had given notice.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the correspondence was now complete, and would be shortly laid upon the table.—The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. ANDERSON moved for a return of copies of correspondence between the British ministry and their agents at Constantinople and in Egypt since January, 1850, relative to the *alleged Interference of the Porte in the internal Administration of Egypt*, by depriving the Pasha of the power to inflict capital punishment, and to construct railways in his own territory. He dwelt at length on the deep interest England had in upholding the efforts of the Pasha to improve and civilise Egypt, and contrasting the security of European life and property in that country, as compared with their insecurity in Turkey, recommended the exercise of British influence to terminate the dispute favourable to Egypt.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER could not accede to the motion. To do so would be to publish information in reference to important negotiations still pending for the settlement of the differences between Turkey and Egypt; but a due regard to the interests of the two states, of England, and of the world, would be observed in the negotiations referred to.—Lord J.

RUSSELL stated that though we had guaranteed the treaty under which the Pasha of Egypt held the Pashalic, we had not guaranteed the conditions on which the future relations of the Porte and its vassal should subsist. Any interference, therefore, on our part with either the Porte or the Pasha could only be in the shape of advice given by one friendly power to another. He agreed that it would not conduce to the satisfactory termination of the negotiation if the papers asked for were given.—Mr. HUME, though disapproving of the interference of England in 1839, thought we were now bound to insist that the conditions of the treaty we then guaranteed should be carried out.—Mr. M. MILNES said England had never so guaranteed the independence of Egypt that she would be justified in supporting that independence by the force of arms; but he thought all the parties to the treaty were morally bound to see it carried out, and that Egypt, in its endeavour to promote civilisation, and to ensure security for life and property within its territory, should be supported by the moral influence of this country.—Mr. ANDERSON intimated that he did not intend to press his motion, and it was withdrawn.

On Wednesday, the 24th, Mr. FREWEN, in moving the second reading of the *Protection from Dangerous Animals Bill*, adverted to the public evils, and even injuries, arising from the absence of sufficient legal control over furious dogs and savage bulls, and from the enactment against draught dogs not being extended to the rural districts. The object of the bill was to remedy these defects in the law.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave a ludicrous exposition of the proposed provisions for the destruction of mad dogs (already without the pale of the law), and for the tethering of irritable bulls, and he urged that, although the subject of dog-carts might deserve consideration, there was no urgent necessity for legislation. It would be better, he thought, to withdraw the bill; otherwise, he should propose its rejection.—Mr. SPOONER defended the bill, more especially with reference to draught dogs; and Mr. EWART suggested that that part of the bill should be alone retained, and that it should be referred to a select committee.—After a short discussion, the bill was withdrawn.—Mr. V. SMITH (in the absence of Lord J. Russell) moved the second reading of the *Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill*. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL repeated what had been said by Mr. Walpole, that the government did not object to the bill, reserving to themselves the liberty of proposing amendments in the committee.—The bill was read a second time, not without a vehement denunciation of election abuses by Colonel Sibthorp.

On Thursday, the 25th, Mr. HUME moved for leave to bring in his measure to *amend the Representative System*, by making the franchise depend on residence and rating only—to introduce voting by the ballot—to shorten the duration of Parliament to three years—and to adjust the representation on the basis of population and property. He called on the house, as the best means of preserving the blessings of our constitution, to remove all ground of discontent arising from the injustice and anomalies of the present system. The only way in which the country could bear that competition which must, ere long, come upon it, was by ensuring to the people equal rights, and convincing them that they had an interest in the maintenance of the institutions of the country. He commented upon the recent speech of Lord Derby, who, having seceded from the views he advocated 19 years ago, denounced as demagogues those who remained steadfast to those opinions. The extension of the suffrage had not tended to encourage, but to check, the lawless march of democracy, and democracy was only dangerous when it became lawless. At present, one-fourth of the adult male population could return the majority to make laws for the government of the entire country; that was not a state of popular representation that could be satisfactory to the people, or permanently secure content and tranquillity.—Sir J. WALMSLEY in seconding the motion showed the gross inequalities of a system under which 325 members, forming, in fact, a majority of the house, represented only 141,372 votes, or one for 430, while the rest were returned by 908,715, or one for 2779, and after quoting

the Earl of Chatham, Mr. Fox, the late Duke of Richmond, Earl Grey, Mr. Lambton, and other authorities of past times in favour of an extension of the suffrage and short parliaments, concluded by impressing on the house the importance at this particular juncture of expressing an opinion on the subject.—Mr. H. DRUMMOND considered the danger of any extensive widening of the franchise to be that the House of Commons would represent the poverty instead of the wealth of the country. If he took up the part of reformer it would be to reform the House of Lords. The power of the House of Commons had increased, and was increasing, and he wished to enable the Lords to withstand that power. He suggested that the Crown should have the power of naming peers for life.—Sir W. P. WOOD argued that there was greater danger to be apprehended from excluding the unproprietary class from the pale of the constitution than from extending the franchise to them. The case of France, which had been put forward as a warning to us not to extend the franchise to the majority, was in fact a warning to us not to exclude them from all political power. Had the Reform Bill not passed, and the corn laws remained unrepealed, what a fearful position would this country have been in in 1848! When disturbances were apprehended in 1848, two or three hundred of the workmen employed on the building of the new houses of parliament, refused to be sworn in as special constables, on the ground that they would not go out against their order. He saw danger in that refusal—and the best way to guard against it was to destroy the “order,” by admitting those who belonged to it into the pale of the constitution. He had voted for Mr. Hume’s previous motions for reform, but as he did not approve of the details, he should not vote on the present motion.—Mr. ROBERTS contended that that system of representation could never give satisfaction or secure good government, which excluded from political rights educated and moral men. He was, however, of opinion that to unite a number of small boroughs into one, for the purpose of increasing the constituencies would be most objectionable. The advantage of having the minority represented in the House of Commons as well as the majority, would be lost if the country were so cut up into squares.—Mr. DISRAELI combated the proposition put forward by Mr. Hume and Sir J. Walsley, that the town population was not fairly represented, by quoting the number of members returned by the urban and rural populations respectively, of some of the largest counties, showing that the proportion of members to numbers was far greater in the towns than in the country. Against triennial parliaments he had no inveterate prejudice; but how could those who refused to allow a parliament to legislate in the last session of its existence demand that the duration of parliaments should be shortened to three, or, as some of them wished, to one year? With regard to the ballot, in an unlimited constituency it would be a conservative measure; but he could not conceive a more cunning device for an oligarchy than that the franchise should be confined to a limited number, whose voting should be concealed from the eyes of the unfranchised millions. And if on the other hand, they went to universal suffrage, without which the ballot should not be established, that would involve a new constitution—that of the sovereignty of the people. That was the constitution of America, but not of England, which was that of the sovereignty of Queen Victoria. He denied that the Earl of Derby, or any member of the government, ever said or meant that an extension of the franchise must necessarily involve an extension of democratic power. What they were opposed to was the tampering with the depository of political power, than which nothing could be more injurious or dangerous to the country. After some observations by Mr. F. Berkeley and Mr. Osborne, Lord J. RUSSELL did not consider that the propositions of Mr. Hume’s motion would conduce to the good government of the country. Adverting to those propositions in detail, he spoke strongly against the ballot, as applicable only to a very wide extension of the suffrage, and gave it as his opinion that with universal suffrage and vote by ballot the monarchical principle and the hereditary

aristocracy could not long continue as parts of our constitution; and as to triennial parliaments, he reminded its advocates that the triennial act had been repealed because of the inconvenience, expense, and heat which it occasioned. He believed at present the franchise was too exclusively confined to the middle classes, and that it should be extended to those members of the educated working classes who were in every way fitted to exercise it. He also considered it important that the constituencies of the smaller boroughs should be enlarged. Some observations were made by Mr. Walpole, and the house divided, when Mr. Hume’s motion was negatived by 214 to 89.

On Friday, the 26th, on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. SLANEY made a variety of suggestions for the *Relief of the Landed Interest*. Amongst them, freedom from heavy stamp duties and enormous law expenses on the sale, mortgage, or transfer of property—a simple and general law to facilitate disinvestment, where necessary—the right to make improvements, and obtain loans without the necessity of having a private bill in each case. With free-trade in corn there should be free-trade in capital. Capital, which had increased enormously of late years, was seeking investment; and, if perfect freedom were allowed, would be invested in land, where it was greatly needed. But for this, the law of unlimited liability must be repealed. Freedom for labour, which was restricted by the settlement law, was also necessary.

Col. DUNNE, in moving the *Ordnance Estimates*, stated, that having examined them he found they had been prepared by the late government with the greatest economy consistent with the maintenance of the establishment in an efficient state. Though there was an increase in the number of men, consequent on the filling up of the artillery regiments and engineers, there was only one other vote, that for the survey of Scotland, in which there was not a decrease as compared with former years. Of the various recommendations made by the committee on the Ordnance estimates, many had been already carried into effect, and others were under consideration. He proposed a vote of 15,582 men. After some slight discussion, the vote, together with the money grants for pay and other charges, passed.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON brought forward the *Commisariat Votes*, and explained that the increase they exhibited over the corresponding votes of last year was consequent on the war at the Cape and the establishment of a convict station at Western Australia, which together amounted to 67,552*l*.

The grants having passed, a vote of 17,742,806*l*. was taken in Committee of Ways and Means on account of *Exchequer Bills*. Mr. Hume entering a protest against the high rate of interest at which this class of securities was maintained.

The President of the Board of Trade having moved the second reading of the bill authorising the *Apprehension of Deserters from Foreign Ships*, Mr. ANSTEE moved that the second reading be postponed for six months. If this bill passed, persons flying from the tyranny of their own government must be given up to what would be certain death. He inquired who were the foreign powers at whose instigation this measure, which was an insult to the country, had been brought forward? We had had extradition treaties before, and he was sorry for it, but this was the first instance in which it was provided that simple desertion, unaccompanied by scandalous crime, should be a sufficient ground for extradition.—The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE said the bill had been prepared by the late government. On the part of our merchants there was general complaint of the inconvenience they suffered from the desertion of seamen from British ships in foreign ports; and, having no means of reciprocating, it could not be expected that any application for their apprehension would be attended to. The object of the Board of Trade was to protect our own merchant ships—whether or not her Majesty’s ships should have the same protection, it was for the house to decide. He should not object to the bill being altered so as to confine it to merchant vessels.—Mr. HUME thought much discussion would be avoided if the treaties on

which these arrangements were founded were stated. He asked how we could deliver up to the French government, for instance, slaves from Martinique who, being employed as seamen, escaped while their ships were in our ports.—Lord J. RUSSELL agreed with Mr. Hume that the preamble of the bill should declare the treaties on which the measure was founded. The bill was important to our shipping interest.—Mr. Secretary WALPOLE intimated that the bill would not alter the law as regarded slaves escaping to British ground. The object simply was to carry into effect the same arrangement with other powers as was contained in the treaty with Portugal.—Mr. ANSTEE, on the faith of this explanation, withdrew his amendment, and the second reading was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the committal of the *Charitable Trusts Bill*, and entered into a number of details to show the necessity of legislation on the subject.—After some discussion, the bill passed through committee *pro forma*.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—March 12th.—Chancery Reform, Lord Chancellor's Explanations.

15th.—Ministerial Policy.—Lord Derby's Explanations, 18th.—Lord Shaftesbury's Resolution to petition the Queen for a State Prison for Criminal Lunatics, debated and withdrawn.

19th.—Ministerial Policy.—Lord Derby's answer to the Duke of Newcastle.—Patent Amendment Law (No. 2) Bill read a second time.

22nd.—Bill to Shorten the Interval between Dissolution and Assembling of a New Parliament, brought in by Lord Brougham.

23rd.—Law of Wills Amendment Bill, read a second time.

24th.—Law of Wills Amendment Bill, passed through Committee.

26th.—Lord Brougham's Bill for Earlier Assembling Parliament read a second time.—Law of Wills Amendment Bill passed through Committee.

House of Commons.—March 12th.—Parliamentary Representation Bills postponed by Lord John Russell.—St. Alban's Disfranchisement Bill read a second time.

15th.—Ministerial Policy.—Mr. Villiers' question and debate thereon.

16th.—Crime in Ireland.—Mr. Stuart's motion debated and withdrawn.

17th.—Manchester and Salford Education Bill referred to a Select Committee.

18th.—Cul-de-street Savings Bank, Mr. Reynolds's motion for compensation negatived.—Mr. Slaney's Industrial and Provident Partnerships Bill read a first time.

19th.—Irish Encumbered Estates Act, to be renewed.—Ministerial Policy, questions and debate.—Passengers Act Bill read a second time.

22nd.—Committee of Supply on Army Estimates.—Indemnity Bill passed through Committee.—Suits in Chancery Relief Bill passed through Committee *pro forma*.—Copyright Amendment Bill passed through Committee.—St. Alban's Disfranchisement Bill considered in Committee.

23rd.—Mr. Frewen's motion for the Repeal of the Hop Duty debated and withdrawn.—Mr. Milnes's motion for an Address to the Crown for Correspondence respecting Foreign Refugees, debated and withdrawn.—Leave given Mr. Henley to bring in a Bill to arrange with Foreign Powers for the apprehension of Deserters.—Leave given Mr. Frewen to bring in a Bill to promote the Building of Churches and to prevent the Union of Benefices.

24th.—Protection from Dangerous Animals Bill, withdrawn on second reading.—County Rates Bill referred to a select Committee.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, read a second time.—Common Law Fees Regulation Bill passed through Committee.

25th.—London (Watford) Spring Water Company's Bill read a second time.—Mr. Hume's motion for Parliamentary Reform, motion negatived.

26th.—Committee of Supply and of Ways and Means.—Mutiny Bill and Marine Mutiny Bill read a second time.—Copyright Amendment Bill passed through Committee.—St. Alban's Disfranchisement Bill read a third time and passed.—Apprehension of Deserters from Foreign Ships Bill read a second time.—Charitable Trusts Bill passed through Committee *pro forma*.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, and Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill passed through Committee.

An elaborate parliamentary return just published exhibits the numbers of Electors registered in Great Britain in the years 1850 and 1851, the various qualifications of the voters, the numbers polled at the last contest, the population, and other particulars. The smallest English county constituency in 1851 was Rutland.—1876; South Lancashire had 21,196 voters; and the West Riding, the largest constituency in the empire, 37,319.

The Welch counties varied from 1006 in Merionethshire to 6124 in Glamorganshire. In the list of boroughs and cities, Calne has the smallest constituency—160; the next lowest is Andover—241. There are nine constituencies over 10,000 each: Bristol, 12,548; Manchester, Westminster, Liverpool, Lambeth, Marylebone, London, and Finsbury, form an ascending series, terminated by the Tower Hamlets, the largest borough constituency, with 23,534 registered electors. The boroughs of Wales vary in number of voters from Brecon with 336 to Swansea with 1691. The smallest constituency in a Scotch county is in Sutherlandshire—207; the largest, Perth, with 4938 voters. None of the town constituencies are very small. Glasgow has the largest total of electors—15,502.

A Meeting of Liberal Members of the House of Commons, on the invitation of Lord John Russell, was held at his lordship's house on the 12th inst. Upwards of 160 members were present. Lord John Russell stated that he had called his friends together to consult them as to the best course to be adopted towards the new government. When the late Sir Robert Peel relinquished the government of the country, he put a question to the Ministry which succeeded, and Lord John Russell answered that question with a full explanation of the policy which his government intended to carry out. Acting on that precedent, Lord John had made application to Mr. Disraeli, to know whether he would take a similar course, and make a similar full exposition for the benefit of the country on Monday next, of the principles on which the cabinet of which he is a member, intends to carry on the government of the country. But Mr. Disraeli replied that it is not the intention of government to make any such statement. Lord John Russell thought it extremely desirable that such a statement should be made; and in the event of ministers not being explicit as to their commercial policy, that they should be forced to inform the country what their views and intentions are. Nor did he deem it enough that the new cabinet should be made to declare their policy now with respect to the question of Free Trade; they should also be compelled to avow, if they did not avow of their own accord, what course they mean to pursue after a dissolution of parliament, in the event of their remaining in office. Lord John intimated that he had consulted all his friends, and also Sir James Graham and Mr. Cobden. Sir James Graham had concurred in Lord John's opinion of the duty incumbent on the new ministers to explain their policy; and had declared that he and his political friends are ready to co-operate in procuring such an explanation, and in securing Free Trade to the country. With respect to the question of parliamentary reform, Lord John stated that he proposes to postpone for three months his Reform Bill; because it is a measure for a government, and not for a private member. He intimated that should another government be formed, and he a member of it, he might bring forward an "improved measure" of parliamentary reform.—Several gentlemen made remarks on Lord John Russell's explanation. Mr. Hume and Mr. Duncombe, in particular, expressed much dissatisfaction at the abandonment of the Reform Bill. Ultimately, however, a policy of co-operation was adopted by all. An understanding was come to, that, in the first instance, the Derby cabinet shall be brought to an explicit declaration of their views on the subject of Free Trade.

The Anti-Corn Law League has been re-constituted. A meeting of gentlemen, who were formerly members of the Council of the League, was held at Manchester on the 2d inst. Mr. George Wilson resumed his former place of chairman, and resolutions were passed to the effect that the Anti-Corn Law League be re-constituted under its former rules and regulations; that the Council of the League put themselves in communication with their friends in all parts of the kingdom, to prevent the return to parliament of candidates favourable to duties on the importation of foreign corn; that a memorial be presented to the Queen praying an immediate dissolution of parliament; and that a subscription be opened to carry out these objects. The subscription was immediately commenced, and in five and twenty minutes sums were put down to the amount of 27,000*l*.—The merchants of Liverpool, adverse to Protection, resolved at a

public meeting on the 9th inst., that they fully coincide in the propriety of the re-constitution of the Anti-Corn Law League, and will strenuously support it.—On the 18th inst., the subscription to the League Fund amounted to 62,318*l*.

The following is an official statement of the *Distribution of the Army* at home and abroad on the 1st January 1852:—

In Great Britain:		
Cavalry	4622	
Foot Guards	4504	
Infantry of the Line	21,003	
Recruiting troops and companies	1858	31,987
In Ireland:		
Cavalry	2022	
Infantry	14,536	16,558
Abroad (exclusive of India):		
Cavalry	425	
Infantry	30,364	
West India Regiments	2740	
Colonial Corps	4550	38,079
In India:		
Cavalry	3345	
Infantry	23,443	26,788
Total effective rank and file		113,412

The above official statement excludes officers, non-commissioned officers, drummers, and trumpeters; these ranks, however, may be stated in the proportion of about 1 to 7½, which would give 15,000 more—making a total of 129,000 in round numbers of all ranks serving at home and abroad (including India) on January 1, 1852.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

At the opening of the Aylesbury Assizes, on the 1st inst., a *Point of Difference* occurred between the Judge and Mr. Scott Murray, the high sheriff of Berks. A few years ago, Mr. Murray was perverted to the Romish faith; and, as the high sheriff always appoints a chaplain, whose privileges and duty it is to accompany the sheriff and judges of assize on all occasions, and to preach the assize sermon, Mr. Murray appointed a Roman Catholic chaplain, selecting Mr. Morris, who, like himself, had seceded from the Church of England. This reverend gentleman accompanied the sheriff and Mr. Justice Crompton to the church door of the hamlet of Walton, whence, having there deposited the learned judge, they proceeded to the Roman Catholic chapel, and afterwards took up his lordship. When both the courts were opened on the following day, for the despatch of business, the high sheriff was again attended by Mr. Morris as his chaplain. Lord Campbell, in his charge to the grand jury, adverted to this circumstance in terms of disapprobation. "The high sheriff," his lordship said, "without meaning in the slightest degree to be guilty of an impropriety, and, indeed, being informed it had been done in other counties, has appointed a chaplain of his own religion, and that chaplain has appeared in the garb of his order in accompanying the high sheriff and her Majesty's judges coming from the place where the sheriff meets them to the place where we now are. Gentlemen, that I do not approve of; and I think it my duty to say that I hope such an occurrence will not be repeated." Lord Campbell having set aside the idea that he was actuated by any illiberal motive, proceeded to say: "The sheriff appoints a chaplain who is to appear as the chaplain of the judges, and who is expected to take his seat in the same carriage as the judges, and to sit beside the judges in the court. That chaplain, therefore, becomes the chaplain of the judges, and the Protestant religion is the religion of the judges of this country." The grand jury, at the close of the day, in making their presentment, expressed their thanks for his lordship's observations on the subject of the attendance of the chaplain, and assured him of their unanimous concurrence in his sentiments. Mr. Scott Murray has published a letter justifying his conduct, and pointing out several recent precedents for it.

Edwin Harris was tried, on the 2nd, at the Winchester Assizes, for *Stabbing his Wife*, with intent to murder her. It appeared that these persons, who seemed decent people, had been married twenty years. Differences at last arose between them, which ended in a separation; but they had so far become reconciled as to meet and walk together; and shortly before Christmas-day they arranged to dine together on that day, and he gave her money to purchase the dinner. They met again the next day, and he then wanted some of the money back again, and she returned him some part of it. He was in liquor, and she went to his lodging with him to take care of him. He kissed her many times, and cried very much. She begged him not to cry, and said she would come and see him in the morning, when he would be better. She left him, and went home. They met again on the 27th of December. She went to his lodging, and made his tea. He cried, and kissed her. They saw his landlord, who said he wondered he would be seen with his wife after what he had called her. His countenance instantly changed. She said he dared not repeat the words in her presence, and she became angry, and said if he repeated it she would slap his face; she had always been a faithful and virtuous wife to him, and had supported herself by staymaking during the time she lived separately from him. After the words had passed in the public-house, they left, and walked together some distance without speaking a word. At length the prisoner said, "What did he say?" alluding to what the landlord had said. He then said, "There's no knowing the heart of any man;" and he began to push his wife. She told him not to do so. He laid hold of her, and she thought he was going to kiss her. She remonstrated with him, and she then saw him draw a knife from his pocket, and he attempted to cut her throat. She screamed, and they fell; he was still endeavouring to cut her throat. The cuts went through her shawl, bonnet, and ribands, and five wounds were inflicted on her face and neck. At the instant a young woman came up and seized the hand in which was the knife, and pulled his head back. She contrived to hold his hand and the knife for some time, till he got his hand away, and again cut at his wife, who screamed "Murder!" and said, "My dear, don't cut my throat!" The other woman said, "You bad man, you've killed the woman," and she ran and procured assistance. She returned, and took the prisoner by the collar. He said, "I'm not going to run away." She said, "I'll take care you don't, you bad man;" and she gave him into the custody of two policemen. The wife was confined to her bed for some time. When the prisoner was sober he was very kind to his wife; but he was given to drink, and was then very excitable; he would change in a moment. It was urged for the defence that the prisoner's act arose from an uncontrollable jealous impulse. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty, with intent to do grievous bodily harm; and the prisoner was sentenced to be transported for life. Mr. Justice Talfourd told the young woman who had rendered such assistance, that he could not let her go without saying how much they were all indebted to her for the great courage she had displayed; he had never heard of any one acting so well. He had the power of awarding a small sum to a person for apprehending a felon; and he should, therefore, in this case award her 5*l*., and he hoped she would purchase some trifle that might be kept by her and her family in remembrance of her courageous act.

At the Oxford Circuit, on the 3rd instant, William Kalabergo was tried for the *Murder of his Uncle*. On the 9th of January last, the uncle, who was a silversmith at Banbury, left that town with his horse and cart laden with goods, accompanied by his nephew. They were on their way home, and when coming down Wilcote-hill, near Banbury, the uncle was shot in the head, and his body was discovered a few minutes after lying on the road. The nephew got through a gap, and proceeded a certain distance along the fields, and then getting again into the road, went on to Banbury, to the house of the Catholic priest, but was not admitted, as he could not make himself understood. He then went to his uncle's house, and, as far as competent, not being able to speak English, made the housekeeper and the lodgers under-

stand that his uncle was dead in consequence of being attacked by three assassins, one of whom had shot him; that he had escaped, but had been pursued across the fields. The fact of the nephew having, a short time previously, purchased a pistol, bullet-mould, gunpowder, and caps, in Banbury, caused suspicion to fall upon him; and on being inquired of by Mr. Samuelson, who speaks Italian, he admitted that he had bought one for his uncle, who had sent it away. A search was subsequently made on the premises of the uncle, when a bullet-mould, bullets, and caps were found, all of which it was proved the nephew had purchased of a gunsmith in Banbury on the 10th of December last. The bullet taken out of the skull of the deceased, as well as the one that dropped out of his clothes, was made of a peculiar hard white metal, and corresponded with those found secreted in the stable. After the discovery of the bullet-mould, bullets, powder, and caps, which were found secreted in the stable, every effort was made to find the pistol, but in consequence of so much rain having fallen, the ditches became so full, that all the endeavours used were unavailing. Subsequently the millers allowed the water of their mills to be drawn off, which had the effect of lowering the water in the ditches, and then a brown great coat was found in a ditch, and about six yards off a pistol was discovered pressed into the mud. The coat was proved to belong to the deceased, and the pistol was sworn to by the gunsmith as the identical one which he sold to the prisoner on the 10th of December last. The ditch in which the coat and pistol were found was in the direction which it was supposed the prisoner took after committing the murder. Several witnesses, who were near the spot where the murder was committed, stated that they met no men except the deceased and the prisoner, who was seen with the deceased, a few minutes before they heard two reports of fire-arms. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Judge passed sentence of death, holding out no hopes of mercy. Kalabergo afterwards attempted to escape from gaol. While in the airing-yard, he clambered on to a wall; a keeper tried to seize him by the leg, but the Italian was too nimble for him; he ran between the spikes along the top of the wall, got on to the roof of the female ward, and then found that he was foiled—that which he had taken for the boundary-wall of the prison was not so. A ladder was got, and the murderer quietly descended. Subsequently to this attempt, Kalabergo confessed his guilt: he signed a short declaration of the fact in the presence of Dr. Tandy, a Roman Catholic priest, and Dr. Harrington, the Principal of Brazenose College, a Magistrate; and in that statement he gave permission to his priest to disclose all the particulars of the crime which he had disclosed in religious confession. He was executed on the 22nd inst.

At the Nottingham Assizes, on the 8th, George Bowskill, Samuel Simms, George Dunlop, and John Moaks were tried for the *Wilful Murder* of William Roberts. George Robinson and James Alvey had been included in the charge, but as to them the bill was ignored. This case arose out of a dreadful affray, which took place on the night of the 13th of October last, between the gamekeepers of Lord Scarborough and a large party of poachers, in the course of which Roberts (one of the keepers) was so severely injured that on the 17th of October he died. The Judge, in summing up, intimated to the jury that, in his opinion, the evidence would hardly warrant them in finding the prisoners guilty of murder; but he left to them the question of identity, and to consider whether the prisoners, having originally gone out for the purpose of taking game, had abandoned that intention before the acts of violence were committed, with a view to the question whether the prisoners could at all justify their conduct on the ground of self-defence. The jury found all the prisoners guilty of manslaughter. Judgment was respite upon a point of law. The prisoners were also arraigned upon the charge of night poaching, and, having pleaded guilty, were sentenced to transportation for 14 years.

At the Huntingdon Assizes, on the 10th, John Titman, James Stokes, and John Hall were indicted for burgheriously entering the house of Thomas Fairley, at Great Raveley, on the 21th of October, 1851, and *Stealing a quantity of Property*. It appeared that Mr. Fairley,

who is the bailiff of Mr. Hussey, at Great Raveley, was awake during the night by a crash against his back door, and, arming himself with a revolving pistol, he went to the top of the stairs, when he saw by a light below the face of a man at the foot of the stairs. The man then blew out the light and retreated, when Mr. Fairley discovered there was another man in the kitchen, at whom he fired; the fire being returned. He then saw other men, some of them with masks, and fired again, when several shots were fired in return. They then set fire to the parlour, and Mr. Fairley, becoming overpowered by the smoke and by the wounds he had received, and the men threatening to shoot his wife, who came to his assistance, was compelled to submit. After this they ransacked the house, and collecting a number of valuables they made off, having previously regaled themselves with such spirits and eatables as they could find. Titman and Stokes were found asleep on the side of a road in the neighbourhood, in the course of the morning, and apprehended, and Hall, having been implicated in the matter by Stokes, was subsequently taken into custody. A quantity of the stolen articles were found strewn about the road, and Mr. Fairley now distinctly identified Titman and Stokes. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners, who were known to belong to a notorious gang. They were sentenced to be transported for life.

At the Marlborough Assizes, Matthew Colgan, a gentleman farmer, was tried for *Administering Poison to his Wife* with intent to murder her. Colgan married the lady two years ago, and received a portion of 500*l.* with her. When she was domiciled at her husband's, she found there a domestic who had borne a child to him. Colgan wanted his wife to ride in the same car with this woman; the outraged wife uttered such remonstrances that the husband consented to dismiss the servant from the house. Subsequently, Mrs. Colgan discovered that she had returned to the neighbourhood, and that her husband visited her. On Mrs. Colgan's confinement with a child, she was frequently ill after taking liquids from her husband's hands; she grew suspicious, and noticed sediments in the vessels: these she preserved, and they turned out to be arsenic. On one occasion, what had been refused by the wife was about to be swallowed by the illegitimate child: Colgan dashed the vessel from the child's hand. The jury convicted him on all the counts charged; but Judge Torrens said, that as, happily, no life had been lost, perhaps justice would be satisfied by taking the verdict on the fourth count—attempting to administer. Sentence, transportation for life.

John Ahearne, a man nearly seventy years old, has been convicted at Waterford Assizes of *Conspiring to Murder* James Troy: Troy was murdered, but Ahearne did not take part in the actual homicide. The victim was a bailiff, whose only offence was being a witness to give evidence of the handwriting of Ahearne and others to notes passed to their landlord for payment of rent; it being believed that in the absence of the witness the civil bills should be dismissed. The convict was sentenced to be hanged.

At the county Mayo assizes, on the 6th inst., John St. John Bridgman, said to be a monk of the Franciscan order, was found guilty of *Burning a copy of the Bible*, when Baron Lefroy directed that he should enter into sufficient security to appear to receive judgment when called on, which assuredly he would be if there was any further attempt to commit a similar act of desecration.

A coroner's inquest, held on the 9th ult. on the body of an infant found dead in a house in Newcastle-street, Strand, disclosed the *Shocking Condition of that Locality*. A woman named Elizabeth Butler said she lived in the room with the child's mother. About six o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Addison, the mother, got up, and said she found it was dead. The father got up too, and expressed a hope it was not, and then, finding it apparently so, ran with it to the King's College Hospital.—The Coroner: Who was the mother of the child?—Witness: Caroline Hales, my cousin.—The Coroner: Then was she not married? Who did she live with?—Witness: A man named Addison, a sweep.—The Coroner: Tell me now the whole of the persons who slept in the room?—There were Addison, my cousin, two boys, and myself.

—The Coroner: How old were those two boys?—Witness: One was seventeen and the other twenty-one.—The Coroner: Did you all sleep in one bed?—Witness: Addison and my cousin slept in one bed, the two boys in another on the floor, and myself in another bed on the floor.—Then altogether there were six persons of both sexes sleeping in the room. What were the names of the boys, and who were they?—The witness said she did not exactly know their names. They were the sons of Mrs. Hailes. The witness was asked whether she had not a child two years old sleeping with her?—The witness said she had. (Great sensation in court.)—The Coroner: Then why did you keep that back?—Was that illegitimate like the rest?—Witness said it was.—Caroline Hailes, the mother, gave nearly a similar account of finding the child dead in the morning, and was asked by the Coroner if she considered this a fit state of living in?—She said she believed it was usual with poor persons. She was examined at some length, but her answers were only a corroboration of the testimony of the last witness.—William Addison, the father, was next called, and, in addition to the above, stated that the whole six had, in different places, slept in the room for the last two years.—The foreman of the jury: Now, mind what you swear. When you lived in Little Serle's-place, had you not an old woman residing in the same room?—Witness replied he had, but she was dead.—The Coroner: Then that made seven of both sexes.—The house physician at King's College Hospital, examined the body of the child when it was brought there. He attributed death, not to suffocation, but to a want of free air, under which the child gradually sank and died.—The Coroner observed that never in his life had he heard of such a gross case of immorality as had that day been placed before him.—The jury found "That the deceased died accidentally from a want of free air, and had gradually sank."

A serious *Mutiny* occurred in the Mersey on the 6th, on board the New York packet-ship *Queen of the West*. When the crew were mustered for the outward voyage, there were only twenty-six hands; the seamen held that there should be thirty; grumbling ensued, and symptoms of insubordination. The Master, Mors, a German, seized one man by the collar; immediately several of the crew fell foul of him, knocked him down, and beat him with handspikes and belaying-pins. Mors got away and fetched a revolving pistol, which he attempted to fire at one of the men, but it missed fire. Again the crew attacked the master; but eventually they were quelled by the master and mates using cutlasses with great freedom, inflicting numerous wounds, and nearly cutting off the arm of one of the men. The master then tied up a seaman and flogged him. Subsequently, eleven of the crew were taken ashore by the police to Liverpool; but as the riot took place on the Cheshire shore, the prisoners were sent to Birkenhead. On the 8th nine of the men were produced before the Birkenhead magistrates; two were in the hospital, and others were much hurt. The master stated his case, and witnesses were called to corroborate the statement. Mors admitted that he had twice appeared before the authorities at New York on charges of ill-treating passengers, and that he had been fined in small sums on those occasions. Witnesses called on the part of the men stated that the master committed the first assault. The magistrates convicted the seamen of assault: they sentenced one to pay a fine of 5*l.*, three to pay 3*l.* each, and the others to pay costs; with imprisonments, in default, varying in extent from two months to fourteen days.

Messrs. Wilson, omnibus proprietors on a very large scale, having for some time suspected that their conductors have *hobbed* them, hired a man to ride in certain omnibuses and count the number of passengers on a journey. This led to the detection of embezzlement; some of the conductors not accounting at the end of the journey for the full number of passengers. Three delinquents have been convicted at the Middlesex sessions, and sent to prison for a year. It was stated that since the commencement of the proceedings against the culprits, Messrs. Wilson's receipts had increased 80*l.* a week.

A *Commission of Lunacy* has been held to inquire

into the state of mind of Mr. John Price, a Chancery prisoner in the Queen's Bench Prison. Mr. Price is a gentleman of Margate; he is eighty-four years old, and blind. He has property to the extent of 80,000*l.* Nineteen years ago he lent money to a Mr. Darby, on mortgage of property at Broadstairs; in 1849, Mr. Price refused to receive the interest from Mr. Darby, claimed the property as his own, and would give no account. Mr. Darby made an application in Chancery; Mr. Price refused to obey an order to render accounts, and he was committed for contempt. His son obtained this commission that his father might be released. It appeared from the evidence, that for eight or nine years past the old gentleman has exhibited tokens of insanity. Without the least cause, he had an ill-feeling against his son, and declared that he was constantly attempting to kill him by throwing poison on his bed clothes; he also averred that he received electric shocks from his son, even at times when the son was not near him. Old Mr. Price hung his bed-clothes and his dress out of window, or before the fire, to dry the supposed liquid poison thrown upon them. He said other persons were in league with his son; and he had padlocks put on his door to keep out the "poisoners," but he found them useless, for "the devil got through the keyhole." When the jury visited the unfortunate gentleman in the prison, he exhibited great shrewdness in parrying or answering some of the questions put; he denied several of the statements that had been made to prove his madness, but others of his replies were sufficient to show his unhappy condition. The jury found that he had been of unsound mind since October 1843.

A shocking *Murder of a Child* has been committed at Boyn-hill, a village near Maidenhead, in Berkshire. A labouring man, named John Cannon, has, for the last two years, taken as a lodger a relative of his wife, named Isaac Lee, who has always shown certain indications of weak intellect. On Tuesday morning, the 16th, having been left in the house with a little girl about four years of age, a granddaughter of John Cannon's, he cruelly murdered the poor child, it is supposed, by knocking its head against the floor, and afterwards kicking it about the room. He was taken before the magistrates for the borough of Maidenhead, and committed for trial at the next assizes for murder.

At the Lewes Assizes, on the 20th, Sarah Anne French was tried for the *Murder of her Husband*. It was proved that the prisoner, a young woman of 27, had conceived a criminal attachment to a young man, named Hickman, and had poisoned her husband, in order that she might marry her paramour. Hickman was one of the witnesses, and his evidence showed a profligate intercourse between the prisoner and himself; but it did not appear that there were any circumstances which rendered him an accessory to the murder. In the course of the examination for the prosecution, the son of the prisoner was introduced as a witness. The prisoner turned her head and looked at him for a moment, and then burst into tears. In answer to preliminary questions that were put to him by Mr. Cressy, he said he was eight years old. He had only once been to chapel. He had been taught some prayers, but he did not know the Lord's Prayer. He did not know what happened to people who took an oath to tell the truth and told a lie. It was a wicked thing to tell a lie. He was aware that something would be done to wicked people who told lies, after they were dead, but he did not know what it was. Mr. Baron Parke, upon this, said he did not think the boy understood sufficiently the moral obligations of an oath to be examined, and he was accordingly removed without being sworn. The woman was convicted and sentenced to death, the Judge telling her that she must entertain no hope of mercy. The young man Hickman was in court when the sentence was given, and he heard his wretched paramour ordered for execution without betraying the slightest emotion.

At the same Assizes, Charlotte Larkin, a widow, was indicted for the *Manslaughter of a Child* ten months old. This was one of those cases so frequently occurring in the country, where the deaths of children have been occasioned by the administration of narcotics sold under different names to the poorer classes, for the purpose of "soothing" their children. In the present instance it

appeared that the prisoner had been in the habit of giving her child laudanum, and upon the occasion in question, finding the child more restless than usual, she administered an increased dose, the consequence of which was that it died shortly afterwards. The prisoner was proved to have always previously exhibited great fondness for the child, and there was no ground for supposing that she had any idea of the dangerous consequences that were likely to ensue from her conduct. She was found guilty, and sentenced to three months' hard labour.

At the Derby Assizes, on the 13th, Anthony Turner, was indicted for the *Murder* of Mrs. Barnes, at Belper, in December last. The prisoner had been employed by Mrs. Barnes, who was a widow lady of considerable property, to collect certain weekly rents, but as he was apparently unpunctual in the business a disagreement took place which resulted in his discharge. According to his own account there was a misunderstanding regarding the support of a natural child of a brother of the deceased, which was in his custody, and for whose support he had made some deductions from the rents, which also formed a subject of dispute. On the night of the murder, after having been heard to utter threats of vengeance, he borrowed a carving knife of a neighbour, and making his way to the house of the deceased, he rushed past the servants, up stairs to the deceased's room in a state of great excitement, and a noise having been shortly afterwards heard, on Mr. Bannister, the deceased's nephew, entering, he found Mrs. Barnes weltering in her blood, with a fearful gash in her throat. She expired shortly afterwards, while the prisoner made his escape as he entered, but was soon after apprehended. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the learned Judge passed sentence of death.

The case of *Mrs. Cumming* (see "Household Narrative" for January, page 7.) came before the Court of Chancery on the 27th instant. This lady had been found to be of unsound mind, under a Commission of Lunacy, at the expense of 5000*l.*, while her property was of very small amount. Mrs. Cumming having applied for leave to traverse the inquisition, the legal question of the competency of this application was debated at great length; and on the above day the Lord Chancellor gave judgment, that Mrs. Cumming had the right to traverse; stating, that, in his interview with her he had found her perfectly rational and collected. In concluding his judgment, the Lord Chancellor made the following important observations:—Before he parted with this case, he must say that it was one which the court had heard with much pain. This property is of small amount, and even with care—and he saw no signs of care—could ill afford the costs of these proceedings. Unless it was managed with the strictest economy, the whole of it will be swallowed up in the proceedings professionally taken for the purpose of protecting it. It would be a lasting reproach to the parties on both sides—not excepting the counsel by whom they are advised, if these proceedings are allowed to be carried on in such a manner as to exhaust this poor lady's property. Let them seriously think of this. This lady is now very infirm in health and aged, being 76 years old. He repeated that it would be a lasting disgrace to all parties concerned, and it would be a reproach too on the law, if through these proceedings the few years which will be left to her must be spent in poverty. Here had no less than *eight* counsel been engaged in supporting and opposing this application, *three* on the one side and *five* on the other. He now made an order that only the costs of *two* counsel on each side should be allowed; and he would make an order that future expenses to be incurred in these proceedings be cut down to the lowest possible point, for he was determined to preserve what remained of this lady's property, if it is in the power of the great seal to preserve it.

Some time ago, the Rev. Stephen Matthews, incumbent of Hanging Heaton, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, was charged with having committed *Adultery* with a girl named Mary Helliwell, a teacher in the school under his superintendence, and the daughter of one of his parishioners. After two investigations before the magistrates, in which the bench acquitted the rev. defendant of being the father of a child, the result of

his illicit intercourse with the plaintiff, the matter came before the Bishop of Ripon under the Church Discipline Act, and, after the lapse of a considerable period, the judgment of the Right Rev. Diocesan has been pronounced, depriving Mr. Matthews of his living and all emoluments arising therefrom, the bishop being of opinion that he had been guilty of "the foul crime of adultery with the said Mary Helliwell."

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

THE investigation before the coroner into the *Disaster at Holmfirth*, caused by the bursting of the Bilberry Reservoir, was concluded on the 27th of February. Captain Moody, the government inspector, gave evidence on the construction of the embankment. The jury found a verdict, declaring that the Bilberry Reservoir was originally defective, and the commissioners, engineers, and overlookers, culpable; that the commissioners have been "guilty of gross and palpable negligence" in allowing the reservoir "to remain for several years in a dangerous state;" that they regret that through the commissioners being a corporation, they cannot find them guilty of manslaughter; and that they hope government will consider the subject with reference to future provisions. After the delivery of the verdict, Captain Moody offered some remarks on the insecure state of the Holm Styes Reservoir. Describing the construction and the defects of the reservoir, he made this startling statement—"You remember how strongly I impressed upon you the importance of the waste or flood-waters being able to escape freely; and that I recommended a by-wash in preference to a waste-pit. There was a by-wash designed and constructed at this reservoir; but when I went up to see it, I found that a wall had been built across it, and firmly puddled, so that the water falling into this reservoir must have poured over the top; and, had it risen a few feet more on the night of the 4th, the time of this catastrophe, you would have had a flood down that valley, meeting the flood from the Bilberry Dam Reservoir at right angles, and the destruction would have been most awful. I assure you, that when I saw this wall built across the by-wash, my expression was, 'These people are insane.' I could not believe it possible that sensible men—mill-owners, knowing the operations of water—could suffer such a thing to exist. But so it was; I saw it with my own eyes, or I would not have believed it. By the instructions of the magistrates, I took upon myself instantly to order the removal of this wall." In conclusion, he referred to the miserable pay of the man in charge of each reservoir—5*l.* a-year. Intelligent and careful management could not be expected for that sum.

Mr. Thomas Newsome, for many years a reporter at Leeds, was *killed* on his return from the Holmfirth inquest. At Huddersfield he had to change carriages on the railway; he got into a wrong train; when it moved he discovered his error, and in attempting to leave the carriage he slipped between the wheels and the platform. He died a few days after.

A *Fatal Railway Accident* happened on the morning of the 5th, on the London and North-Western Railway, near Kilburn-gate. While some 200 or 300 men were engaged in gaugs in carrying out some alterations in the sleepers, a down coal train was heard approaching, which led a gang of five men incautiously to step aside on to the up-line. At the same moment the up-train was coming up; it had entered the curve, and was travelling at the rate of perhaps 35 miles an hour. Unhappily the men were unconscious of the close approach of the mail, and they coolly enough awaited the passing of the coal trucks. The driver of the mail engine sounded the steam whistle, but the unhappy men continued on the line, the noise of the coal train no doubt preventing them hearing the whistle. The next moment or so the train was upon them. By some extraordinary effort two of the men contrived to escape, but the other three met with a horrible and instantaneous death. The train went over their bodies, and they were found frightfully mutilated. Their limbs were severely mangled, and the head of one was

picked up some twenty or thirty yards from the body. The mutilated remains were afterwards removed to the Kilburn station. An inquest was held on the bodies, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," adding to their verdict a recommendation to the directors to take precautions to prevent the recurrence of the accident in future, by the men being more effectually warned on the approach of trains.

A poor woman was killed by an Ox on the morning of the 15th inst., near Sadler's Wells Theatre. A large drove of beasts was being driven to one of the lairs near Islington, for next day's market at Smithfield, and one of them, in passing by a fruit stall, which has for many years been kept near the theatre by an old woman, made towards it, and the owner, fearing he would upset it, endeavoured to frighten him away with her hands. This appeared to infuriate the bullock, for he instantly left the stall and ran at the woman with great fury and forced her against the wall, where the animal, which had no horns, continued butting at her in a dreadful manner. The driver appeared afraid to go near. The bullock then left her, and joined the drove. The poor woman was taken up in an almost insensible state and conveyed to the hospital, but died during the night.

A young man met a dreadful Death by Machinery on the 9th inst. His name was Charles Brookfield, and he worked in the Hoyland Corn Mill, near Sheffield, and was employed in cleaning some part of the machinery with an old sack, when the sack got entangled with the spindles, and before he could disengage his hands he was caught up and whirled round a shaft at the rate of one hundred and twenty revolutions per minute. His lifeless body was found in a shockingly mangled condition.

Mr. J. F. Ansley, an under-graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, and son of Mr. Gilbert Ansley, of Houghton Hall, Hants, has been killed by a fall from a horse. He was in a field trying a horse which he purposed to buy; the horse cleared several fences, but one it refused; Mr. Ansley lost his seat, the horse dashed off round the field, the young gentleman kept his hold of the saddle for a time, but ultimately fell to the ground with his foot entangled in the stirrup, and he was thus dragged round the field several times, his head striking against the ground at every stride of the horse. He was taken up insensible, and soon afterwards expired.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE result of an investigation, ordered by the Royal Commissioners of the Great Exhibition, shows the prime cost of the building and its maintenance up to the 30th of November, 1851, together with the cost of taking down the building and reinstating the ground, after deducting the probable value of the materials, is 159,918*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* In the list of items appended to the report are—Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., for castings, 23,093*l.*; Messrs. Cochran and Co., cast iron, 15,689*l.*; Mr. Jobson, cast iron, 5709*l.*; Messrs. Chance, Brothers, and Co., glass for the roof, 13,094*l.*; Messrs. Kershaw, Lee, and Co., calico for roof, 1625*l.*; Aberdare Iron Company, for wrought iron, 1665*l.*; Messrs. Moser and Son, and Messrs. Pfeil and Co., for iron and ironmongery, 2500*l.*; Mr. T. Ledger, for gas fittings, 1323*l.*; Mr. Gardner, for hire of horses, 1246*l.*; Messrs. Dowson and Co., for timber, 31,550*l.*; Mr. Birch, for sash bars, 2494*l.*; Mr. Rose, for oil and paint, 3700*l.*; and Messrs. Pontifex and Wood, for white lead, 1200*l.*, &c. The item for wages alone amounts to 59,185*l.*

A parliamentary paper on the subject of *Savings Banks* has been printed, from which it appears that on the 20th November, 1850, there were 1,092,581 individual depositors in savings banks, whose deposits, with interest, amounted to 27,198,563*l.* There were 12,912 charitable institutions depositing with savings banks, amounting to 655,093*l.*, and 7506 friendly societies to 1,077,326*l.* The total depositors numbered 1,112,999, and the amount, with interest, 28,330,982*l.* There were besides 586 friendly societies in direct account with the Commissioners of the National Debt, and the amount deposited was 2,277,340*l.*

A large meeting of the inhabitants of the parishes of St. Matthew's and St. John's, Manchester, on the 9th inst., considered the propriety of petitioning parliament in favour of the *Substitution of Reproductive Labour for Non-productive Labour or Compulsory Idleness in Workhouses*, as a means both of ameliorating the condition of the pauper population and of diminishing the burdens of the ratepayers. The Rev. Mr. Bentley, rector of St. Matthew's, presided; the rector of St. John's, and three other clergymen, Alderman Pilling, several common councillors, and other leading citizens, took part in the proceedings. The chairman advocated the cause of reproductive labour. On the 1st of January, 1850 (he said), a period of boasted prosperity, there were upon the rate-books of England and Wales 931,328 persons receiving in-door and out-door relief: what an incredible waste of money, and loss of human labour; and what an enormous amount of incentives to crime, of pernicious influences on society and public virtue, that fact suggested! He introduced to the meeting Mr. Stark, the Secretary of the Poor-law Association, a body which was formed some time since to inculcate the principle of giving reproductive employment in workhouses, and which is now increasing its activity and enlarging the sphere of its influence. Mr. Stark stated, that the principle of reproductive pauper employment is making great progress in America, and is even applied in Spain. The Liverpool Poor-law Board had appointed Mr. Carr, the late master of the Cork Workhouse, to the mastership of the Liverpool Workhouse; a deputation from the vestry having been to Cork and satisfied itself of the great advantages, both to the poor inmates and to the ratepayers, which Mr. Carr had there obtained by an intelligent application of reproductive employment among the paupers. Resolutions to petition Parliament in favour of the objects advocated by the speakers were unanimously adopted.

The annual general meeting of the *Royal Literary Fund* corporation was held on the 10th inst., Sir R. H. Inglis, Bart., in the chair. The report stated that the sum of 1635*l.* was distributed during the past year in relief to distressed authors and their families, making the total sum so applied from the commencement of the institution 40,555*l.* The Marquis of Lansdowne was re-elected president; the vice-presidents, council, and officers were re-elected; C. Baldwin, Esq., being elected to the vacant office of treasurer; and B. Corney, Esq., to that of auditor.

The fourth anniversary festival of the *City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest* was held at the London Tavern, on the 16th inst., Lord Granville in the chair. A report from the committee was read, stating that 11,194 persons had obtained relief from the charity since its commencement in June, 1848, and that the attendance of patients had frequently amounted to from 150 to 170 during a single day. The total receipts during the year 1851 amounted to 7845*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, of which 7222*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* had been expended, leaving a balance of 622*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* The new hospital in progress of erection at the Victoria Park it was estimated would cost 15,608*l.* 2*s.*, of which 5510*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* had already been paid, so that there remained a sum of 10,095*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* still to obtain. At the close of the entertainments donations to the amount of 5018*l.* were announced, including the sums of 500*l.* contributed by Mr. S. Gurney, 500*l.* by Mr. Joseph Tucker, 250*l.* by Mr. H. E. Gurney, 250*l.* by Mr. Henry Tucker, 250*l.* by Mrs. Stone, 63*l.* by Mrs. Dixon, of Stanstead-park, and 50*l.* additional by Mr. Henry Tucker.

The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of the *Liverpool Female Penitentiary* was held on the 22nd inst. The report stated that forty-one years had now elapsed since—roused by the enormous extension of prostitution in that town—some benevolent persons had founded the institution for the succour and relief of the penitent. During those forty-one years, 1576 unhappy women had passed through the institution, receiving, in a greater or less degree, in proportion to their own sincerity and earnestness, the advantages which it was calculated to confer. 535 females, once the outcasts and scourges of the community, had been enabled, on leaving the institution, to pursue a course of industry and virtue, whilst many had been restored

to the home of their early days, and to the arms and hearts of their parents. Fortified by the results of experience, the committees had from time to time extended the institution. Large additions had been made in the course of the last two years, chiefly with the view of making more productive the labour of the inmates. The earnings of the penitents had consequently increased, and hopes were entertained that they would still further increase, and thus tend to place the resources of the institution on a more secure basis. The receipts had not been sufficient to meet this outlay, and the treasurer's account showed that there was a balance of 106*l.* 1*9s.* 8*d.*, which would be increased by two bills not yet sent in, to 200*l.* The applicants for admission in the course of the year were 116, of whom 52 were refused. There had been restored to their friends 8, and the whole number which had left was 69, leaving 53 in the house.

Returns have been printed by order of the House of Commons respecting the *Import and Export Trade of the United Kingdom*. In 1822, the value of the imports into the United Kingdom, calculated at the official rates of valuation, amounted to only 30,531,141*l.*, and in 1850 they reached to 100,460,433*l.* In 1822 the exports from the United Kingdom were 53,470,099*l.*, and in 1850 they had reached to 197,309,876*l.* There is also an increase in the value of the articles and produce of manufacture of the United Kingdom exported. In 1822 the real or declared value was 36,966,623*l.*, and in 1850 the value of such exports amounted to 71,367,885*l.* There has been an improvement in the trade of this country until it has reached its present high state, as evidenced by the document now printed.

Some parts of Ireland, hitherto the most disturbed and wretched, appear to be in a state of unprecedented *Quiet and Prosperity*. The shortest and lightest assizes known in the county of Tipperary for a long series of years, have closed without a conviction for murder, or indeed for any very serious crime. The Limerick papers state that there has not been a single labouring man or woman, able to work, unemployed in that part of the country for several weeks past. Emigration, nevertheless, proceeds at as great a rate as ever, and the price of berths in emigration ships has been considerably raised in all the Irish ports.

Miss Sellon, the Superior of the Sisters of Mercy at Plymouth, having been charged by the Rev. Mr. Spurrell, vicar of Great Shelford, with Popish practices, has published a reply at the request of the Bishop of Exeter. Miss Sellon acknowledges that she has advised her pupils, or "children," to confess, and she states that that confession is practiced "by thousands in the English church," and that "the benefit of absolution" is granted by Episcopal clergymen. She does not deny that one of her pupils, as an act of penance, was ordered to make the sign of a cross on the floor, *with her tongue*—this was "an act of self-abasement," and she has heard that it has been recommended for sins of falsehood, &c., "by one of our bishops and eminent divines." Miss Sellon also washes the feet of her "children" and others, doing it "in obedience to our Lord's commands." Her pupils also wear "religious symbols" under their dress. She is said by Mr. Spurrell to have used the words, "My child, when you hear me speak, you should think it is the voice of Jesus Christ." "The sisters remark that it is so exceedingly unlike my manner of speaking, that it bears evidence to them that these words were not said: I am quite certain that the words were not said as is represented. It might be that I was saying that the directions of a superior ought to be,

and were, the will of God for a person; so they are in all things lawful, and so I always teach and believe." She also acknowledges to burning candles before a print of the Virgin and Child in her private oratory, and argues in favour of praying for the dead and for the guardianship of angels.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

The Queen held a Chapter of the Order of the Thistle on the 25th, when Lord Saltoun was elected a knight, and invested with the insignia of the Order.

The Duchess of Athol has been appointed mistress of the robes to her Majesty, in the room of the Duchess of Sutherland, who has resigned.

Mr. J. Marshall has been elected Dean of Faculty by the Scotch Bar in the place of Mr. Anderson, now Lord Advocate.

Lord Montagu has been elected President of the Art-Union of London.

Professor Blackie, of Aberdeen, has been elected by the Town-Council of Edinburgh, to succeed the late Professor Dunbar in the Greek chair of the University of Edinburgh.

Sir William Gibson Craig, and Sir William Johnston have been added to the members of the General Board of Directors of Prisons in Scotland.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

THOMAS MOORE died at Shopton Cottage, near Devizes, on the 25th of February, in his seventy-second year.

THE MOST REV. DR. MURRAY, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, died on the 25th of February, in the eighty-third year of his age.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JAMES COCKBURN, of Langton, Bart., G.C.H., died on the 26th of February, in the eighty-first year of his age.

JOHN LANDSEER, Esq., A.R.A., the father of Sir Edwin and Messrs. C. and T. Landseer, died on the 29th ult., at his residence, Southampton-street, Fitzroy-square, in his ninetieth year.

M. MEELÉ, the senior of the dramatic feuilletonists of the Paris press, died on the 27th ult., aged sixty-seven.

LADY MARGARET MILBANK died on the 8th inst., in Eaton-place, in her twenty-seventh year. She was the only daughter of the late Lord Grey of Groby, and sister to the Earl of Stamford.

MADAME SOTHEE GAY, the celebrated writer, and mother of Madame Emile de Girardin, formerly Madlle. Delphine Gay, died in Paris on the 4th inst.

THE REV. DR. KEATE, formerly Head Master of Eton College, died at his house in Harley Westphall, Hants, on the 5th inst., in his seventy-ninth year.

SIR WILLIAM AUGUSTUS MONTAGU, G.B., K.C.H., Vice-Admiral of the Blue, died on the 6th, at Ryde, Isle of Wight. He was a midshipman of his Majesty's ship *Russell*, at Camperdown.

THE REV. SIR HARGREYV LEES, Bart., died on the 7th, at Blackrock House, county of Dublin, aged seventy-five years.

MARSHAL MAJORITY, DUKE OF RAPHA, the last of Napoleon's marshals, died at Venice, on the 2d inst., aged seventy-eight years.

M. ARMAND MARRAST, the principal author of the Constitution which President Bonaparte tore up on the 2d December, and the once influential editor of the *National*, has died at Paris. Apoplexy struck him two months since; he never rallied; and he has passed away in the prime of life.

JOHN SEALY TOWNSEND, a retired Master in Chancery, and one of the distinguished ornaments of the Irish bar in the days of its greatest brilliancy, died at his residence, Killybeg, near Dublin, on the 18th inst., at the age of eighty-seven. He was the contemporary and competitor of Plunkett, Curran, Sturin, Bushe, Pennefather, &c.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR H. WHEATELY, Bart., G.B., died on the 21st inst., aged seventy-three years.

SIR CHARLES F. FORBES, M.D., Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals, died on the 22d inst., aged seventy-three years.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE news from the *Cape of Good Hope* has assumed a more favourable complexion; the latest operations against the Caffres having proved successful. These operations commenced in the beginning of December by the concerted march of two divisions under the respective commands of Major-General Somerset and Colonel Eyre.

Their columns mustered between them some 5000 men, levies and regulars, including 90 of the 12th Lancers. After encountering some spirited opposition from the Caffres, who not only manœuvred with a force of native cavalry, but discovered some knowledge of stockading, the two columns succeeded in crossing the Kei, sweeping

the country beyond, and putting themselves in direct communication at the rendezvous assigned. This duty accomplished, they scoured the neighbourhood afresh, and returned to head quarters, after three weeks' absence, with 23,000 head of cattle and a proportionate spoil in goats and horses. Nor did these droves constitute the whole of their following. The Fingoes of Butterworth, in number 7000 souls, with chattels in the shape of 30,000 kine, expressed a wish to be removed from the reach of the exasperated Kreili, and they migrated accordingly, under convoy of Colonel Eyre's division, for protection and location in some part of the British territory. Such was the issue of the expedition across the Kei.—On the 15th January, Sandilli and the other Gaika chiefs held a meeting, and resolved to sue for terms of peace. Their suit was made through two of their councillors. Sir Harry Smith replied that he could offer no terms to "rebels;" that they must surrender unconditionally. If they did this, their lives would be spared; the rest must depend wholly on her Majesty's mercy. As they did not do this, or in any way renew their offer, in eight days of grace allowed them, another expedition was to have marched into the country of Sandilli and the other Gaika chiefs, on the 26th and 27th January. The news of the starting of this expedition had not arrived at Cape Town when the mail departed for England.—The news from the Orange River Sovereignty had also taken a favourable turn. The assistant-commissioners, Major Hodge and Mr. Owen, had met Prætorius and Adriaan Standen, and a great assemblage of the Trans-Vaal-Boers, and had found so much good inclination on the part of Prætorius and Standen, that "all difficulties had been arranged;" and the proscription under which Prætorius had been living for five years past—a reward of 1000*l.* for his head—had been removed by a public proclamation of Sir Harry Smith. The assistant-commissioners had announced that the emigrant farmers beyond the Vaal are to have the management of their own local affairs.

From the intelligence received from India, it appears that there is likely to be another Burmese war. A naval squadron, under Commodore Lambert, having been sent to Rangoon to demand satisfaction for certain aggressive proceedings on the part of the King of Ava. The King offered ready submission to this demand, and displaced the governor of Rangoon by whom it had been first opposed. But these amiable professions turned out insincere; for scarcely had the new governor, or viceroy, been placed in authority than he commenced a series of annoyances and insults against all British subjects. Commodore Lambert sought an interview with the viceroy, which was not only refused, but all communication between the shore and the fleet strictly prohibited. Many of the British took refuge on board the English vessels, while those who remained behind desirous of securing their property were cast into prison. The fleet remained at anchor for 24 hours on the opposite side of the river, when intimation was received from the viceroy that he should fire on the squadron should the Commodore attempt to move down the river. On the 10th of January the Fox was towed down, and anchored within a few hundred yards of the stockade erected by the viceroy, when the steamer, having returned to bring away with her a Burmese man-of-war, was fired on, which was immediately returned with great vigour. The enemy dispersed after some three hundred of them were slain. The squadron then proceeded on its course,

and the river ports of Burmah were proclaimed to be in a state of blockade. Commodore Lambert then proceeded to Calcutta for further instructions. Another campaign was therefore deemed unavoidable, which, it was supposed, could not be commenced before October.

Accounts have been received of dreadful acts of *Piracy and Murder* in the Indian Ocean. The Victory, of London, a barque of 570 tons, commanded by Captain Mullens, having sailed to some Chinese port, was chartered to convey coolies to Callao. On the 6th of December she sailed from Cumingmoon with upwards of 300 coolies on board and a general cargo. On the afternoon of the 10th, between three and four o'clock, the coolies made a rush into the cabin, and with little difficulty possessed themselves of the ship's arms. The slaughter then commenced. A party having proceeded to seize the captain, he was gallantly defended by a brave fellow of the name of Henry Watt, but he being overpowered and put to death, and his mutilated body thrown overboard, Captain Mullens was obliged to take shelter in the rigging. He was soon, however, compelled to come down, and the coolies despatched him with cutlasses and heavy iron bolts, and threw him overboard. After murdering three other men, they compelled Mr. Fagg, the chief mate, to steer the vessel, which was ultimately brought to anchor at Paulo Ubi, on the coast of Cochin China, where, after destroying all her papers, and going ashore, they abandoned her, leaving Mr. Fagg behind, who afterwards made his way to Singapore.—The Herald, of Leith, under the command of Mr. Lawson, left Shanghai for Leith in the course of last October, and in addition to the master and his wife, Mrs. Lawson, there were on board two European mates, a steward, carpenter, a cook, a Portuguese seaman, 12 Manila men, and a Manila boy. Some four or five days after the Herald had left Shanghai, the crew were put upon their customary allowances, which annoyed them. They then laid a plan to destroy the whole of the Europeans, but this was privately communicated to the captain by a Portuguese whom they had endeavoured to enlist in their cause, and led to the precautions being adopted of mustering them on deck every night and taking their knives from them. This exasperated them the more, and while they were under weigh for St. Helena, they contrived during the night of the 25th day of the voyage to overpower the captain, carpenter, and officers, whose dead bodies were found below in the morning by the Portuguese. These were then thrown overboard. In a few days more they recommenced the slaughter, the Portuguese, cook, and the boy alone succeeding in moving their clemency on a promise of secrecy. They then determined to scuttle the ship, which they afterwards abandoned in the boat, leaving Mrs. Lawson, who they were resolved should not escape, secured in one of the cabins of the ship, which soon after foundered. The following morning they reached Java, when the authorities hearing of the matter, they were all taken into custody, the Portuguese, the cook, and the boy being detained to give the necessary evidence against them.—A third vessel was likely to have had a similar tragedy on board. The Coreyra, Mr. Paterson commander, manned by a Javanese crew, was proceeding from Madagascar to Shanghai, when the men revolted. The second mate was murdered, but the other officers succeeded in overpowering the ruffians, and the ship was got into Hong Kong.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE most important article of news from France is that the President has effected another *coup d'état*, the conversion of the Five per Cent. Rentes into Four-and-a-half; a measure which will lessen the interest on the Stock by eighteen millions and a half of francs, and is in fact a robbery on the stock-holders to that extent. A very large proportion of the rentiers, who will suffer this loss, are poor people of the working classes, who had money in the savings banks in 1848, and were obliged

to accept five per cent. stock in lieu of their deposits seized by the provisional government. A decree has been promulgated regulating the relations of the chambers with the President. Each senator may propose to present to the President the basis of a bill of great national interest. Any proposals of modifications of the constitution must be signed by ten senators. The *corps législatif* cannot reject a bill without discussing all the articles separately. The president is to receive 100,000

frances salary. The severest penalty applied to a deputy is fifteen days' exclusion. Another decree has been published, whereby the retirement of judges of the Court of Cassation is enforced at the age of seventy-five, on the ground of presumed infirmity, and of all inferior judges at the age of seventy; the power of the Court of Cassation to suspend judges for specified misconduct is also enlarged by empowering that court to dismiss them on the same ground. The measure will give the government a great deal of patronage; and there can be no doubt that the new judges will all be men thoroughly to be depended upon, either to uphold centralisation or to condemn political prisoners.

A decree has been published imposing severe restrictions upon the sale of materials for printing. Entries are to be made of the names and addresses of purchasers, and copies of this register sent to the Prefect of Police. No private press, however small, can be possessed without authorisation. Printers' licenses are in future to be conferred by the Minister of Police.

The Exchange of Hamburg, on the 10th instant, presented the spectacle of the *Execution of a Bankrupt*. At noon, when the tide of business was at the highest, two drummers in the civic uniform came up and rolled their drums for ten minutes. Workmen were seen over the principal gateway of the building elevating a black board, on which was painted in white letters the name of a merchant of the city who had lately suspended payment and absconded with all his assets. When the name had been fairly set up, a bell, called the "schand-glocke," or shame bell, only rung on such occasions, was sounded for two hours from a tower of the Bourse. This penalty of disgrace, called the "execution of a fraudulent bankrupt," is ordained by a law which can be traced to the 14th century, when the Hanseatic League was at the height of its greatness.

The voyage of the *Emperor of Austria* from Venice to Trieste on the 4th inst., was attended with the loss of a fine steamer, the *Marianna*, with all hands on board. The morning was so stormy that the most experienced pilots protested against putting to sea, but their counsel was overruled by the military men forming the Emperor's suite. The consequence was, that the vessel on board of which the Emperor was, was separated from the other vessels, and next day reached Rovigno with difficulty. Of the *Marianna* nothing was ever seen again, but some fragments washed ashore, it appearing that she had gone to pieces near the mouth of the Po. Sixty-six persons perished, among whom were several military officers, engineers, and soldiers.

The accounts from nearly every part of *Germany* speak of great distress through dearth of provisions. In Lithuania, bands of from thirty to forty individuals overrun the country, and carry off by force whatever cereals they can find on the farms. In Upper Silesia, and more particularly in the circle of Ilybniker, sickness and death have so increased, that the clergy are unequal to the duties of visitation and burial imposed upon them. It is feared that the hunger-fever of 1847 and 1848 will be renewed. The people of the Thuringian Forest are emigrating in despair; and in the Oberland of Weimar a whole parish, with priest and schoolmaster, has left the country. The same thing has been repeated in the duchy of Gotha. The government has bought the village, and is taking down the houses. In the Odenwald, in Hesse, the pressure is so great that the government has sent troops thither, fearing an insurrection. Not long ago, Prussia was the granary from which the Low Countries, France, and England, drew supplies; and, to-day, France is exporting corn to Prussia by sea and land. The Emperor of Russia has ordered the free admission into his dominions of low-priced flour and meal. At Berlin, on the 2nd instant, the Minister of Finance announced that the duties of entry on importation of corn, flour, and vegetables, are suspended for all the States of the Zollverein till the 31st of August. At Cassel, where the price of bread is fixed by the police, the bakers found their business a losing concern, in consequence of the high price of corn, and were in some cases unable, by reason of the existing scarcity, to furnish the usual quantity of bread; some

of them, too, seeing their stock diminish too rapidly, providently desired to eke it out. An order, however, has been issued, to the effect that every baker shall bake daily such quantity of bread as the police may prescribe, and sell it at the price fixed by the police. Disobedience is to be punished in every case with a fine of 3*l.*, or a fortnight's imprisonment, and repeated infraction with expulsion from guild.

The "*Prague Gazette*" of the 13th contains a proclamation by Count Clam-Gallas, which shows that the population of *Bohemia* is still in a state far from tranquil. Secret societies, the commandant says, yet exist in great numbers; and unlawful and unauthorised writings, such as revolutionary proclamations, addresses, and comments upon public affairs, circulate, chiefly in manuscript, among the people. The public is reminded that the mere possession of such documents is a crime punishable by the courts-martial with imprisonment and hard labour for a year. The Vienna courts-martial were still sitting, and, in the week ending March 15, had sentenced twenty persons, convicted of petty offences deemed political, to various imprisonments of from seven days to four months, diversified with blows with a rod, blows with a stick, fasts, and irons.

The chambers have just been opened in *Wurtemberg*, *Nassau*, and *Oldenburg*. The chief business in all these assemblies is to revise the constitutions, with a view to cancelling all clauses that guarantee popular rights, or enable the popular will in any way to influence affairs of state. The governments of the three States named have strong majorities, as everywhere else in Germany.

Accounts from *Athens* state that a secret republican society, with ramifications extending to Constantinople, had been discovered. In the night of the 12th of February, the police, supported by the gendarmerie, surrounded the houses of some Polish refugees resident at Athens, and of Messrs. Negrus and Bouyoneli, Greek citizens, known to be on terms of friendship with them. All the parties were arrested and their papers seized. Military measures of the most stringent character were taken to overawe the population. General Milbitz, and fourteen other Polish refugees, were ordered to quit the Greek territory in 24 hours. They embarked at the Piræus, some for Sardinia and others for Alexandria. The subject having been brought forward by the opposition in the Chamber of Deputies, the ministry promised to produce documents, showing the necessity of the measure, and M. Provellegio, Minister of Justice, distinctly denied that the measure had been adopted on the demand of any foreign power.

By accounts from *St. Petersburg*, it appears that the perennial war with the Circassians continues to rage with violence. Bulletins from the army of the Caucasus state, that on the 10th and 18th of January different columns, which had been directed upon the valley of the lesser Tehtchina, encountered bodies of mountaineers, of whom they slew great numbers, and set fire to their villages. The Russian loss in these various combats was 49 killed and 233 wounded. Among the former was Major-General Kroukowski, who was struck by a ball while investing a village at the head of his cavalry. A hotter contest took place in Doghestan. A column was sent out on the 14th of January, which, after destroying the village of Mischkil on the 17th, on the 18th invested Schellagi, rendered almost impregnable by the fortifications which the mountaineers had raised there. After a fierce struggle the place was taken and burnt, but the Russians lost first 130 men killed and 341 wounded; among the latter were two colonels. All the inhabitants perished. Incidents such as these have filled the bulletins of the Russian army of the Caucasus for these last six years. Once in twelve months the Russian forces advance some distance into the territory of the indomitable mountaineers, according to a plan prepared in the military chancery at Tiflis, destroying the villages, lighting up the primitive forests by incendiarism, and seizing upon the herds of the natives. These operations are, however, of brief duration, and may be renewed for many years without procuring the

least submission of the people. The failure of provisions and the early snows compel an early retreat. The Circassians, led by Schamyl or one of his Naibs, follow the retreating Russians, and harass their ranks, attack the convoy, cut off the weak and failing, and revenge themselves for the desolation of their village by similar devastations on the Russian territory on the other side of the Sundschah and Terck. In the Western Caucasus the war has never been carried on with so much bitterness and constancy. By the true Circassian people, who speak three distinct languages, and are divided into a number of small tribes, a pacific attitude will be maintained, almost unchanged, for several years. But still hostilities have never entirely ceased in the Circassian mountain-land. After years of inactivity, attacks upon the Russian posts on the Black Sea recommence, from some unknown cause of warlike passion—a Berserker-like fury suddenly seizes the valiant race, when the chiefs of all the tribes assemble under the sacred oak, and there devote their swords to Seaseros, the god of battles, who, like many other deities of the place, maintains his ancient honours in spite of the introduction of Islamism, and sustains a more considerable part here than Allah, or the prophet. All the politic attempts of Prince Woronzow to captivate the western mountaineers by offers of material advantages, lucrative trade, are scorned, and the French may hope to civilise and settle Kabylia long before Russia will have gained peaceful possession of Circassia.

Advices from *New York* come down to the 10th instant. The intelligence is not of much importance. In the United States Senate on the 8th instant, a bill was reported by the finance committee, the object of which was to increase the value of silver, and thereby retain it in the country. It was said that this measure would greatly tend to alleviate the inconvenience to which the trading community are frequently subjected for want of small change. A bill had been introduced

into the United States Senate, ceding the public lands to the states in which they lie, at certain prices. It was announced in the House of Representatives that drafts of the federal government were actually being protested, for want of funds in the quartermaster's department to meet them.

Advices from *Buenos Ayres* give the important intelligence of the complete overthrow of the power of General Rosas, the Dictator of Buenos Ayres. On the morning of the 3rd of February, a severe and decisive action was fought, between Merlo and the Passo del Rey, between the forces of Rosas and the allied Brazilian and Oriental armies, under the command of Gen. Urquiza; the battle terminated in the defeat of the Buenos Ayrean troops. It is said 4000 men were killed and wounded in this engagement, and Rosas himself. During the night of the 3rd General Urquiza slept at the country residence of General Rosas, at Palermo, and took up his headquarters there, previous to marching upon Buenos Ayres. Rosas, with his daughter Manuclita and several of his suite, escaped on board her Majesty's ship *Locust*. He was disguised as a marine, and his daughter as a sailor boy; they were afterwards transferred to her Majesty's ship *Centaur*, at Buenos Ayres. That city was commanded by General Mancilla, who offered to capitulate. The diplomatic agents of the various foreign powers had gone to arrange matters amicably, if possible. Urquiza's army comprised 28,000 men, 5000 horses, and 40 pieces of artillery, with the necessary baggage. Mr. Payne, master of her Majesty's ship *Locust*, who rode out to see the fight, was met by some gauchos retreating, who demanded his horse, but on his refusing to give it up they took it from him, and wounded him so severely that he died in consequence. Previous to his defeat, Rosas shipped a considerable amount of treasure, and it is supposed that he would go to England either in a British ship of war or by the next mail steamer.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE most important publications of the past month have been contributed to the departments of biography and history. Lord Cockburn has completed, in two volumes, a *Life of Lord Jeffrey*, which, by a very reasonable indulgence of the art of book-making, might have been extended to thrice the length, the sole profit of such extension accruing to the publisher. The biographer appears more wisely to have published only such and so many letters as would suffice to illustrate prominent features in the character and intellect of his old friend. The book presents less than usual, therefore, of that indiscriminate public use of private correspondence which has had too free a sanction of late from even high authorities, and to which something of the scandal of the literary forgeries lately perpetrated, must, without doubt, be assigned. Another biography, evidently the work of a scholar and a man of conscientious judgment, who writes anonymously, is that of *Gustavus Vasa* (with extracts from his correspondence), which appears to have originated in a regard for Swedish literature, and a more than ordinary acquaintance with the language, the volume being in fact a compendium of Geijer's History in so far as it relates to the great Swede king, reinforced and illustrated by original authorities. A very different sort of life, the subject chosen and the motive for choosing it presenting startling contrasts to that just named, is a compilation from a thorough-going Roman Catholic writer of France, M. Andin, and purports to be *The Life of Henry VIII. and History of the Schism in England*, which title says all that need be said of the work. A more pleasing title is that which introduces us to *Robert Blake, Admiral and General at Sea*, that old English worthy having found a biographer in Mr. Hepworth Dixon. Another great Englishman is celebrated in a republished volume on *Sir Christopher Wren and his Times*, by Mr. Elmes. And the well-known *Memoirs of Thomas Holcroft*, which Hazlitt formerly edited, has made welcome re-

appearance in the portable form of the Messrs. Longmans' traveller's library.

Occupying a middle place between biography and history, the first volume of Lord Holland's *Memoirs of the Whig Party during my Time* is also a contribution to last month's literature. This first volume comprises the period from the break-up of the old Whig party by the French Revolution, to the death of Charles Fox. Another small volume by Mr. Hampden Garney, partaking equally of biography and history, under the title of *Historical Sketches* deals with a selection of such important events or epochs, as may be most emphatically represented by the names of the prominent movers in them: as that of the expulsion of the English from France by Joan of Arc, the invention of printing and diffusion of thought by Caxton, modern discovery and commercial enterprise by Columbus, and the Reformation and free inquiry by Luther. On the other hand, a book of memoirs of the *Men and Women of France in the Last Century* belongs as little to actual history as to actual biography, occupying rather the neutral ground between the latter and pure fiction. It is a collection of sober facts interwoven ingeniously with witty and fanciful inventions, in a style and with a skill which immediately reveals its French origin and manufacture.

Lamartine's second volume of the *History of the Restoration of the Monarchy in France* has been completed in English. It closes with Napoleon's flight from Waterloo, after a description of the battle in which the Homeric periods and the Homeric invention appear to have been equally objects of emulation to the lively historian. Whether the Duke of Wellington will think it incumbent upon him, in vindication of the memory of his old and faithful Copenhagen, to take notice in any way of the statement that he had seven horses slain under him, by shot or fatigue, on that memorable day, and that the eighth was severely wounded before Blücher

came up, it is for the Duke to determine. But if his Grace resolves to take any notice of that grave assertion, perhaps he will also inform the English public at the same time, whether it be really true (as Lamartine not less gravely asserts) that, on the final charge of the English cavalry, he ordered the curb-chains to be taken off the bridles that the horses might plunge more violently down hill; and that, to make the fatal launch upon the French yet more precipitate and terrific, by "intoxicating the men with liquid fire, whilst the sound of the clarion should intoxicate the horses," he issued orders on the field for a plentiful distribution of brandy to the dragoons.

Professor Newman (of University College) has supplied some useful additions to Niebuhr, and several valuable illustrations of the early language and history of Rome, in a small scholarlike volume called *Regal Rome*. Mr. Grote, in a ninth and tenth volume, has brought his great work of the *History of Greece* to the triumphant close by Epaminondas of the struggle between Sparta and Thebes. The leading subjects dealt with in the volumes are the character and exploits of the Theban General, the expedition of Cyrus, the Retreat of the ten thousand, the Asian career of Agesilaüs, and the victories of Pelopidas against the Lacedæmonians. Strangely unlike such history as this, and yet in subject allied to it also, we have next to mention a *History of the Island of Corfu, and of the Republic of the Ionian Islands*, by an intelligent officer of Artillery, who has also published during the month a *Manual of Field Operations* for the use of officers on service, in which, amid other matters not uninteresting even to the non-professional reader, will be found a rationale of "street-fighting" upon the very latest and most approved principles. Mr. Gladstone has completed his translation of the third volume of Luigi Carlo Farini's *Roman State*, or history of the modern troubles and insurrection of Italy. Dr. Whewell has made public a series of eighteen short *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy in England*, containing interesting criticisms of the successive investigators of that science from the Elizabethan divines down to Bentham. Colonel Sabine has issued his third translated volume of Humboldt's *Cosmos*, pursuing the astronomical portions of the great philosopher's physical description of the universe. And from Mr. Robert Grant we have received a *History of Physical Astronomy from the Earliest Ages to the Middle of the Nineteenth Century*, treated both popularly and learnedly, and containing, in addition to very careful notices of the early history and masters of the science, and in especial of the establishment of Newton's great theory of gravitation, certainly the most detailed account which has yet been given of the progress and results of strictly modern research in the wide field of celestial physics.

Several volumes of a light and miscellaneous kind have also appeared during the month. Mr. Baxter has published some notes of his last year's travel in Portugal, Spain, and Italy, under the title of the *Tagus and the Tiber*. Mr. Frederic Hardman has reproduced from the lucubrations of a German settler, *Scenes and Adventures in Central America*. Sir James Alexander has edited some posthumous papers of his friend Sir Richard Bonnycastle, on *Canada as it was, is, and may be*. An ingenious city goldsmith has given the gold-digging world the timely benefits of his experience, in a thin little volume called the *Gold Valuer*, containing tables for ascertaining the value of gold, familiar explanations of the art of assaying, and other helps to keep the Californian and Australian miners from going astray as to the value of their gains. A Fellow of Brasenose College, Mr. Bowen, who appears to be as well acquainted with modern as with ancient Greek, has favoured the world with his *Diary of a Journey from Constantinople to Corfu*, taking the monasteries of Mount Athos by the way, and riding through Thessaly and Epirus. Doctor Henry Holland has published some *Chapters on Mental Physiology*, treating of several moot questions in modern medical science, with original observation and philosophical candour. There has appeared a fifth edition, with many interesting new illustrations, of Sir Charles Bell's Bridgewater treatise on *The Hand*. To Mr. Hughes we are indebted for

a most useful *Manual of Geography*; and Mr. Keith Johnstone has issued two admirable *School Atlases of Physical and General and Descriptive Geography*; containing all the most recent discoveries and rectifications. William and Mary Howitt have given us a book, in two thick volumes, on the *Literature and Romance of Northern Europe*, embodying copious translated specimens both in verse and prose, very pleasingly executed, of the most celebrated early as well as recent writers of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland. Mr. Pashley, one of her Majesty's counsels, has issued an elaborate treatise on *Pauperism and the Poor Laws*. Mr. Campbell of the Bengal Civil Service has made public, under the title of *Modern India*, a sketch of the entire system of civil government of our Eastern empire, with some account of the natives and their habitations, which the committee about to sit on the renewal of the India Charter will possibly find worth looking into. And Mr. Seymour Tremaine, shocked by the number of poisonous doctrines and pernicious teachings on the subject of government, which, in the course of his experience as a government commissioner he has met with in cheap and widely diffused publications, has done his best to provide an antidote in a little volume on the *Political Experience of the Ancients in its bearings on Modern Times*; which is more likely, however, to attract the attention of students already familiar with Aristotle, Polybius, and Cicero, than of the parties for whom it is intended.

But our list is not yet complete. The Registrar-General has circulated a most striking *Report on the Mortality of Cholera in England in '48-9*, from which it appears that the victims of that terrible scourge during its last visitation numbered not less than fifty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-three, the deaths having averaged many more than a thousand a day for several days in succession. A volume of *Miscellanies* by James Martineau, on religious and philosophical themes, has been imported from America, as with the author's sanction re-published in that country. Mr. Bogue has imported from the same quarter *The Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England*. Mr. Angus Reach has collected under the title of *Claret and Olives*, his notes of a ramble in France from the Garonne to the Rhone. A little volume in Mr. Murray's "Reading for the Rail" has been devoted to anecdotes of the British navy, exhibiting *Deeds of Naval Daring*; and in the same agreeable series several popular papers from the *Quarterly Review* have been reprinted, on *Music and The Art of Dress*, on *The Flower-Garden*, on *The Honey-Bee*, and on *Theodore Book*. A new series of "Readable Books," issued by Messrs. Vizetelly, has commenced with a republication (from America) of Mr. Edgar Poe's *Tales of Mystery and Humour*. In another such series, in course of publication by Mr. Routledge, a circulation of *Michael's History of the Crusades* has been commenced. Mr. Bohn has enriched his various and excellent "libraries" by several important books in their various departments, such as *Sir Thomas Browne's Works*, *Pye Smith's Connection of Science and Scripture*, Humboldt's *Cosmos*, *Plato, Cicero, Sir Joshua Reynolds's Discourses*, and Mr. Allen's *Battles of the British Navy*. Mr. Van Voort has commenced a succession of small and valuable handbooks of *Outlines of the Natural History of Europe*, with a treatise by Mr. Hemyon on the *Vegetation of Europe, its Conditions and Causes*. The Hakluyt Society has published some curious notes by one Captain Coats, on the *Geography of Hudson's Bay*, a century and a half ago. Mr. Hullah has published a *Grammar of Musical Notation*. And finally, to Mr. Robert Rockitt we are indebted for a pleasant verse translation of the *Library Fables of Yriarte*, a collection which differs from other fables in being devoted exclusively to subjects connected with literature and literary men.

The principal novels of the month have been Mrs. Crowe's *Adventures of a Beauty*, Mr. Madden's *Wigwag, or Clubs and Coterie*, the *Court and the Desert* translated from the French, two anonymous novels called the *Perils of Fashion* and *Lena or the Silent Woman*, and an historical romance of old-English story entitled the *Lily of St. Paul's*.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of Feb. 27th.—W. RAYNES, Leeds, flax-spinner.—J. T. DENIS, Lime-street, City, and Spar-street, Leicester-square, wine-merchant.—G. GILLOTT, Castleford, Yorkshire, grocer.—G. and T. HAET, Union-street, Southwark, trimming-manufacturers.—A. HILLS, Woodside, near Croydon, Surrey, and Isle of Dogs, Poplar, oil of vitriol manufacturer.—J. O. HOLMES and Y. L. MARSHALL, Sunderland, Durham, timber-merchants.—J. NORRIS, Watford, Hertfordshire, grocer.—G. SENIOR, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, apothecary.—J. SIMMONDS, Bradford Forum, Dorsetshire, builder.—J. R. THREADGOLD, Southampton, tea-dealer.—J. WILKINS, Brighton, Sussex, builder. S. WILSON, Nottingham, hotel-keeper.

March 2nd, 1852.—A. B. FRASER and C. LIGHTFOOT, Lime-street, merchants.—G. BENNETT and A. BOOTH, Long Acre, dealers in Scotch whisky.—S. WATKINSON, Writtle, Essex, innkeeper.—J. STAFFORD, West Smithfield, tailor.—F. PETIT and T. ARGENT, Newmarket, saddlers.—T. BROOKES, Banbury, printer.—A. ELBOROUGH, Crescent-road, Milbank.—J. ROGERS, Leicester, grocer.—W. and G. THOMAS, Aberman, Glamorganshire, grocers.—J. F. REEVES, Taunton, scrivener.—W. BROMBY, Hull, maltster.—J. YATES, Prescot, Lancashire, builder.—J. DAVIES, Abergelle, Denbighshire, grocer.—J. ELLISON, Liverpool, ironmonger.—W. PEPPERLEY, and J. A. CHARLTON, Sunderland, shipbuilders.—G. TURNELL, Coxhoe, Durham, draper.

March 5th.—T. FREEMAN, Northampton, innkeeper.—T. FOWKES, Redditch, innkeeper.—E. B. S. HOFF, Holbeck, dealer in cheese.—J. WOMERLEY, Jun. Huddersfield, ironmonger.—R. WELLS, Brieg, Lincolnshire, draper.—A. BAILES, Sheffield, victualler.—J. BETTRAM, Sheffield, ironmonger.—J. SHAW, Manchester, warehouseman.—W. SHARP, Liverpool, merchant.

March 9th.—J. LOADER, Finchbury, upholsterer.—A. DEAN, Brighton, clothier.—M. CLARK, Pudding Lane, commission-agent.—A. A. LACKERSTEEN, Broad-street Buildings, merchant.—W. H. BRIDGE, Jun. Warborough, Hampshire, butcher.—C. COURTNEY, Exmouth, victualler.—J. DYSTON, Wakefield, linen-draper.—S. J. NEGROPOSTE, Manchester, merchant.—W. FROST, Macclesfield, silk-throwster.—G. TOWNSON, of Church, in Whalley, plumber.

March 12th.—D. KEITH and T. SHOEBRIDGE, Wood-street, warehousemen.—S. LUDLOW, Oxford, builder.—L. MORRIS, Derby, innkeeper.—W. NORRIS, Blackpool, Lancashire, post-house-keeper.—J. STARR, West-Rainton, Durham, grocer.—J. RYMER, Gateshead, paper-manufacturer.

March 16th.—J. FRANKLIN, Great-marlow, innkeeper.—S. GASH, Hatcham New-town, Camberwell, builder.—H. HOLLAND, Eldon-road, Kensington, builder.—G. WARMIST, Leigh, Lancashire, ironmonger.—T. LORD, Ashton-under-Lyne, boot-maker.—R. DILKS, Watlington, innkeeper.—W. HORTON, jun. Rochdale, joiner.—R. JAMES, Lenton, Nottingham, lace-maker.

March 19th.—W. GREEN, Coggeshall, builder.—C. KLUG, New-Bond-street, real-estate-and-estate-importer.—J. BRANCH, High-street, Camberwell, corn-dealer.—R. WOOD, Warden-street, upholsterer.—J. DORMOR, Charles-street, St. John's-wood, grocer.—B. SMITH, Droitwich, salt-manufacturer.—G. HENNEY, Elmley-Lovett, Worcestershire, victualler.—J. GREENE, Jun., Wigan, ironmonger.

March 23rd.—L. T. WANG, Sunderland, merchant.—J. BRANCH, High-street, Camberwell, corn-dealer.—W. STEVENS, High-Holborn, upholsterer.—J. WOOD, Putney, brewer.—C. H. WHITE, Southampton, dealer in china.—R. CHAMBERLAIN, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, draper.—J. CALMAN, Derby, grocer.—J. LUXFORD, Market-Rasen, Lincolnshire, draper.—R. TOMLINSON, Carlisle, Sheffield, and Beighton, Derbyshire, builder.—W. TODD, and J. TODD, Liverpool, provision-merchants.—A. HARRY, Liverpool, general-merchant.—G. FOSTER, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Lancashire, joiner.

March 26th.—J. HALL, Croydon, confectioner.—F. KING, Brighton, perfumer.—E. MORGAN, Portman-market, Edgeware-road, licensed victualler.—C. GREEN, Spalding, Lincolnshire, scrivener.—D. H. THOMAS, Tyntwyd, Carnarvonshire, draper.—P. HITCHMOUGH, Liverpool, corn-dealer.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

March 9th.—B. HOLMES, Jun., Bradford, Yorkshire, cattle-salesman.

March 26th.—T. NUTLEY, Reading.

MONEY MARKET.

The principal events affecting the Money Market which have occurred since our last publication, were the completion of the Derby ministry, the conversion of the French Rentes by the President to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the reduction by the Bank of France of the rate of interest on loans from 4 to 3 per cent. All these circumstances have occasioned a heaviness in our own Money Market. Railway Stock has also been much demanded for investment, and a rise has been the consequence.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three per Cent. Reduced	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three and a quarter per Cents. . .	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Long Annuities, Jan. 1850	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Stock, 7 per cent.	220	218 $\frac{1}{2}$	220acct
India Stock	261	259 $\frac{1}{2}$	261
Exchange Bills, £1000	70	62	70pm
India Bonds, 3 per cent.	78	72	78

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Belgian $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., 93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Peruvian 5 per cent., 93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazilian 5 per cent., 101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 4 per cent., 36
Chilian 6 per cent., 105	Russian $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., 103 $\frac{1}{2}$
Danish 5 per cent., 103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sardinian, 93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dutch 4 p. c. certificates, 94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 5 per cent., acc., 20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican 3 per cent., 32 $\frac{1}{2}$	

PAID.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Brighton and South Coast.	98	94	98
all	Blackwall	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
50	Caledonian	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
20	Eastern Counties	25	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	25
50	Edinburgh and Glasgow	29	28	28
all	Great Northern	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	Great Western	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	Midland	66	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
25	North British	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	North-Western	124	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$
30	South-Eastern	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	South-Western	88	85	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
25	York, Newc., and Berwick	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
50	York and North Midland	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	23 $\frac{1}{2}$

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Paris and Orleans, 48
Dutch Rhensish, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Paris and Rouen, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$
East Indian, 34pm	Paris and Strasbourg, 22
Namur and Liege, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rouen and Havre, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northern of France, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tours and Nantes, 66 dis.

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 50s.; Oats, 17s. to 20s.; Rye, 30s.; Beans, 30s. to 32s.; Peas, 31s. to 34s.; Flour per sack, 43s. to 46s. American, per barrel of 196lbs., 17s. 6d. to 24s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Limerick, 56s. Belfast, 66s.	Eggs, per 120, English, 5s. to 6s.
Beef, per tierce, prime mess, 70s. to 98s. 9d.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Camberland, 66s.; Irish, 40s. to 63s.; Westphalia, 48s. to 52s.
Butter, per cwt.—Carlisle, 1st, 60s. to 80s.; Waterford, 1st, 58s. to 64s.; Dutch Friesland, 89s. to 96s.; Limerick, 1st, 58s. to 66s.	Mutton, per 8 lbs., 3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 40s. to 54s.; Dutch, new Gouda 31s. to 39s.; American, 42s. to 46s.	Pork, per 8 lbs., 3s.; Indian, 110s. to 117s. per tierce.
	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Ware, 45s. to 76s.; Kent and Essex Middling, 25s. to 45s.

GROCERY—LATEST

Cocoa, per cwt. in bond, Ord. to good red Trinidad, 30s. to 42s.; Brazil, 24s. to 26s.	WHELSALE PRICES.
Coffee, per cwt. in bond.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 39s. to 73s.; Mocha, 46s. to 99s.; St. Domingo, 37s. to 39s.; Sumatra, 35s. to 36s.	Sago, per cwt. in bond.—Pearl, 14s. to 16s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal mid. to fine white, 9s. 6d. to 11s. 6d.; Madras, 8s. 6d. to 10s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica, 28s. to 37s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 22s. 6d. to 37s.; Brazil, 26s. to 38s.
	Tea, per lb. in bond.—Ord. Congou, 7d. to 1s. 5d.; Sou-chong, com. to fine, 9d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 1s. 1d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.

Candles, per 12 lbs. 4s. 6d. to 6s. Coals, per ton, 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d.

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 30l. 10s.	Olive, Gallipoli, 44l. to 45l.
Sperma, 84l.	Linseed, 27l. to 27l. 10s.
Cod, 33l. to 33l. 10s.	

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.] FROM THE 28TH MARCH TO THE 28TH APRIL. [PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE Gold-Diggings have been the theme of the month—the basis of protectionist reasonings, the ground of free-trade warnings, the hint for ministerial comparisons. Lord Derby has declined himself one of the happiest of adventurers in having dug up such lumps of precious Ministerial ore as a Pakington, a Malmesbury, a Manners, and a Christopher. Protectionist philosophers have argued for high prices; because whenever prices have been high, as they soon will become by the influx of Australian gold, the comforts of the people have infallibly increased. Free trade wits have laughed at an argument excluding the consideration of what it is *that makes* high prices, —whether a scarcity, or a plenty, or simply a new currency. Finally, there has come into the discussion, much calmer than either party of the disputants, certain passionless documents styled Revenue Returns, which would have us believe beyond a doubt that the true Gold Diggings are Unrestricted Imports.

Not a few people, perhaps, may agree in this, and hold that it is as little to the fortunate adventurers who have been digging for "placemen" in Westminster, as to the lucky dogs who have been knocking their spades against "placers" in Australia, that we owe what these revenue papers show us to have been in steady operation for at least five years. For even that exact time, they quietly inform us, importation of all kinds of food has been increasing, cultivation of the soil improving, the price of corn falling, imports and exports growing, shipping inward and outward augmenting, taxation lightening, and even the returns of Customs and Excise not lessening. They plainly announce, for example, that while, during the last two years alone, reductions in the revenue have been made to the extent of three millions and a half, the last year's return shows a deficiency of no more than half a million, and the last quarter's return exhibits even that deficiency as rapidly disappearing. To this in fairness there should be added what the new Solicitor-General notwithstanding protests, that though it may be quite true that we have imported near five times as much wheat as we did in 1846, yet foreigners have reaped all the benefit; and it is they, therefore, who are the real Gold Finders, and certainly not the hungry Englishmen whose stomachs the importations fill, or the suffering English squires whose pockets the importations empty.

But for this ingenious argument of his, which proceeds on the assumption that England is only to be valued for the sake of her squires, just as the estimable Herr Wagner thinks that England is only to be valued for the sake of her money, the clever lawyer has at least no open followers, whatever may be felt or said in secret; for not with a more determined confidence have the Rival Operas laid claim to simultaneous possession of the same prima donna, daughter of that over-shrewd Herr Wagner, than the rival election candidates all over the country have been vouching for their exclusive allegiance to the real

Simon Pure of Free-trade. That such vouchers are given is certain, and given also in such abundance that the general result of the elections will probably depend on the amount of credence accorded to them.

When Mr. Milner Gibson was arguing the other night for a remission of what are not improperly called the taxes on knowledge, he read an extract from a sporting paper which went to show that Lord Derby had won a recent race by means of his good horse *Longbow*. In like manner there appears to be no inconsiderable reason to think that the same spirited and unscrupulous creature may win another race in the coming elections.

One man supports Lord Derby on behalf of the thriving manufacturers, and another for the sake of the suffering farmers; a third for spleen at the Pope, and a fourth for a hit at Lord John who struck the Pope so hard; a fifth because a too limited suffrage discounts him, and a sixth because the too steady advances of democracy alarm him. The haters and the lovers of direct taxation are appealed to with equal confidence on Lord Derby's behalf, and the addresses of his candidates teem alike with praises of the Peel tariff and denunciations of the Peel income tax. Out of which apparent confusion, rational men draw at least an assurance of the unassailable safety of free trade, and, whatever their opinions on other subjects may be, they are now joining in hearty congratulation upon this.

The interminable Jew question has led to another of those not very decorous exhibitions of judicial disagreement too frequently resulting from the loose condition of our laws. Not long ago, the judges could not agree as to what constituted a newspaper; our humble selves being the *corpus vile* on which their Honours sat for consultation. As our readers know, we escaped not much the worse for the pressure, but certainly with no wish to undergo it again. Our honourable opponents of the Board of Inland Revenue, however, who had agreed to stand by the result on that occasion, now plead the excuse of *Benedick* that when they made the promise they did not know that they should break it, and have asked leave for their Honours to sit upon us again. To this we, of course, have no power to say no. But, conceding the right of a public board to do what private persons might feel a shame in doing, it seems hardly expedient to strain a doubtful law, when to enact a plain one would be a course so much easier and more satisfactory. From this our unhappy example, however, Mr. Alderman Salomons may take the comfort of reflecting, that even if the balance of Exchequer barons had been as clearly in his favour as it was in ours, he would probably have been no better off than he finds himself at this moment, with only one solitary Exchequer baron to take part with him. He has at least the satisfaction of knowing at once the worst. If he incline to believe that particular baron who tells him that he might fairly have refused to swear by the faith of a

Christian in the House of Commons, because the expression occurred in an oath invented as well for English Jews as for other English subjects, and to which it would therefore be absurd to regard those words as essential, there is another baron ready with the shrewd remark that because a thing is absurd it need not follow of necessity that the legislature did not mean it. This latter Daniel found two others to support that view, which clearly appears to have most of that kind of reason on its side in which our English law delights. At the same time all the barons appeared to countenance and join in a humane suggestion that the law thus proved hostile to the worthy alderman—unintentionally so as one of them thought it, mischievously so as a second of them thought it, and substantially absurd as a third of them characterised it—should be in some way or other overhauled by the legislature. Mr. Salomons really comes better off than our less fortunate selves.

Materials have been largely accumulating during the month, for a book upon the mysteries of Paternoster-row. The ancient bibliopolic Isis bids fair to stand stripped of her usual worship and obedience before many moons are over. The old lady had been too exacting. Not content with arranging her own profits, she must needs arrange the profits of other people; and having so fixed her own wholesale price as to cover all the cost of production, would fain also fix the precise retail price which is to satisfy the cost of distribution. Whereupon there has been a revolt against her authority, charges advanced, counter-charges provoked, the public made a party, and a Chief Justice the umpire; nor is it at all improbable but that the quarrel may end, as such quarrels have heretofore been known to end, in honest folk getting more than they expected of their own. Certainly if a particular sum has sufficed to defray all the charges of producing a book; if it has been possible, by selling the book at such a price, to satisfy all demands of printer, paper-maker, bookbinder, publisher, and author, it does seem a little hard that the purchaser should be taxed to the tune of an additional 33 per cent. for what would appear to involve no more additional outlay than the handing the book across a counter, or the tying it up in a parcel. But next month more will have to be said of this, and with greater certainty.

Prince Schwartzburg has been struck by the sudden death which so often awaits men of violent passions, in the very act of using all his energy to obtain a seat for M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte among the hereditary continental rulers. But Nicholas won't receive him in any other character than as a warning-pan for legitimacy; and Frederic William says ditto to Nicholas. M. Bonaparte himself has continued to exhibit unabated activity in closing up, as far as possible, the old fields of knowledge cultivated in the University of Paris. He has degraded history and philosophy by the dismissal of Michelet and Quinet. He has prescribed courses of study of which the design is to qualify the *bourgeoisie* of France to serve their masters in future, and no longer to criticise them. He has opened his parliament of mutes with significant recommendations to do his bidding implicitly, telling them that his desire is to do everything for France, and nothing for himself; and illustrating this abnegation of selfishness by securing a civil list practically amounting to about double the sum of that which Louis Philippe enjoyed. Sooth to say, indeed, M. Bonaparte is become just as unquestioned a potentate, to all outward appearance, as that other sovereign chief with whom Lord Palmerston has also been doing his best to establish us in friendly relations. Guezo, king of Dah's belly, does not sit more absolute amid his 18,000 warrior-wives and his pannikins of rum,

stifling in swamps or cutting the throats of all who happen to entertain doubts of his title, than does M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte amid his million-and-a-half of bayonets, his sausages, and his champagne. Next month is expected to inaugurate an empire, but it is hard to see what advantages an empire would substitute for the many obvious advantages a dictatorship would lose. For neither the "pannikins of rum," nor even the yielding embraces of a prostitute army, can bar the danger they involve to the very system they support; already weakness is said to have declared itself in many unexpected and as yet silent quarters against the bayonet-propped presidency; already the judges of the Tribunal of the Seine, in a spirited decision against the confiscation-decree, have openly pronounced against the usurper; and it is not with anything like the same alarm of French invasion which prevailed a dozen weeks ago that our House of Commons is again engaged in the discussion of a second Militia Bill. Meanwhile, as the old world is shipping off its rebels to the new, the new world is shipping off its tyrants to the old; and Rosas, thrust out ignominiously from one continent of America, crosses the last batch of German patriots and French philosophers on their way to the other.

A little gleam of belief in the safety of Franklin and his comrades has dawned upon us from the drifting icebergs that come down each year towards the equator from more distant frozen seas, on one of which, there seems little doubt, two deserted ships that *might have been* Franklin's were seen last year, five miles off, by a trading brig bound for Quebec. Beside this shadowy hope of safety for many gallant countrymen, we have to place the too-certain and terrible loss of more than four hundred and fifty brave fellows in the wreck of a government steam-ship bound with detachments for the Cape. Nothing could save them. If the calmest and most heroic fortitude could have turned away calamity, these men would have been spared. It was not to be; but not in vain did they show how the discipline of English soldiers can face any form of death. 'Sec,' the military journals of the Continent have since been saying, 'what the English strength consists in. Don't be too easily persuaded that corporal punishments and promotion by purchase, now retained in that army alone, make it less fit to cope with its adversaries. Lay not too much stress on its imperfect equipments, on its inferior arms, on its unequal examinations and service, on its comparatively scanty numbers; but view the conduct of its raw recruits on board the sinking steamer, Birkenhead.' So important is it that duty should be done, however hopeless and utterly desperate the time and circumstances.

Such other leading topics of the month as invite the reader's attention our Narrative will faithfully present to him. A new notion of a franchise propounded by Mr. Walpole to give a county vote to every militia man after two years' service, turned out to be a grave man's construction of a dull man's joke; and its sober reception in the House of Commons before the truth was known, can only be taken for proof that that part of our venerable constitution is now become quite too old to be startled at anything. The benchers of the four Inns of court have at last agreed on a measure of reform in legal education, which will extend the preparatory discipline for a barrister's degree some short way beyond the proof of having eaten so many legs of mutton. Those horrible instruments of legal torture which have hitherto passed by the name of Masters in Chancery, are about to be abolished by a bill of the Lord Chancellor's; which it is to be hoped will also so effectually lay their ghosts, as to prevent them

revisiting Chancery under any other name. The ministry has promised to tell the House of Commons at no distant day, whether or not clergymen who are known to hold every doctrine of the Church of Rome may also be permitted to hold profitable benefices in the Church of England. The engineers' dispute has ended in what must be regarded substantially as a surrender of the workmen. And finally there are committees now proposed in both houses of the legislature for the purpose of inquiring, before a new lease be granted, into the administration of the last lease given to the directors sitting in Leadenhall-street for the government of the hundred millions of various races who constitute our Indian empire.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Monday, the 29th of March, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH moved for papers connected with the *Forfeiture of the Territories held by Prince Ali Morad*, on the ground of his having been guilty of forgery and fraud in obtaining possession of them. He reminded the house and the government that this prince had been a useful ally in some of our wars, and contended that, supposing the decision to be correct, the sentence was excessive.—Lord BROUGHTON defended the act of the governor-general of India, by which Ali Morad was deposed. Going into a great mass of details, he showed that Ali Morad had been guilty of manifold crimes, besides the particular one of forgery which was inquired into by the special tribunal. In fact, to the machinations of that wicked man had been due the ruin of his own brother, and our war with the Ameers of Scinde, which ended in their destruction. He had been deposed as a man already fallen through his own bad actions, as an enemy to the British power, and as unworthy of the headship of his family and country.—The Earl of DERBY accepted the defence made by Lord Broughton as complete, and took on his own government the responsibility of the acts impugned. In the course of his speech, Lord Derby stated that the case of the Ameers of Scinde has had such a new light thrown upon it, that an inquiry has been directed, to learn how far they acted under the influence of Ali Morad.—The motion was agreed to.

On Tuesday, the 30th, Lord CAMPBELL asked the noble Earl at the head of her Majesty's government, what the government intended to do with the *Crystal Palace*?—The Earl of DERBY could only say that Her Majesty's Government, having taken into consideration the report of the commission appointed to inquire into the subject, were of opinion that the building, having accomplished all the objects for which it was erected, should disappear, and that the contractors should be called upon to remove it.

The Earl of DERBY, in reply to questions from the Earl of Minto and the Duke of Newcastle, respecting the intended *Duration of the Session*, denied having pledged himself to advise a dissolution of parliament at any specific period, or that after the assembling of the new parliament, a prorogation would take place this year. What he had stated was, that he expected that the new parliament would have an opportunity of pronouncing, in the course of the coming autumn, an opinion on certain questions which it was important to decide before parliament meets in 1853.

On Friday, April 2nd, the Earl of DERBY moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the act 3rd and 4th of William IV., chapter 85, for the better government of *Her Majesty's Indian Territories*. Lord Derby took an historical view of the origin and growth of the East India Company from the time (two hundred years since), when it was so insignificant a trading community, that it refrained from landing a single battalion of troops in its settlement from fear of exciting the jealousy of the neighbouring princes, to the present day, when, having dropped its entirely commercial character, it has attained political empire over a

country extending over twenty-eight degrees of latitude, and embracing a population of 150,000,000 souls—not so much by its army of 285,000 soldiers, as by a wise government and an enlightened humanity. He explained the constitution of the Company; distinguishing the Proprietary, which has scarcely any function beyond that of receiving the dividends on its stock; and the Court of Directors, which has been stripped by the Imperial Legislature of all political power except that due to its ability to recall any and every officer in the Indian service from the governor-general downwards, but which has intentionally been intrusted to retain nearly all the patronage of the Indian service. Then he exhibited the machinery of the Board of Control, which now has the whole political power and administration of the Indian Government in its hands. He showed the nature of the Secret Committee, a body compounded of the Court of Directors and of the Board of Control, for the management of negotiations with the Indian princes. Then he explained the details of the local government in India, in its separate political centres at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, but under the general control of a council presided over by the governor-general. From the political framework of government, he went into the dispensation of religion, the administration of justice, and the execution of public works; showing how the first is more abundant under the influence of three bishops and 130 chaplains; how the second is more pure under the administration of English judges, while at the same time the natives are trained to the greater participation in judicial offices which is daily more and more opened to them; and how the third has become munificent and beneficial, under a government whose revenues have now reached a yearly amount of 25,000,000*l.* sterling. The whole of these subjects would come under the inquiry of the committee, that they might consider and report on them all; but practically the great questions would be, could the government of India be administered without the intervention of the Court of Directors? Would it be better that the nominal power should be exercised solely by the body which now exercises it really? Lord Derby expressed his own opinion to be in favour of retaining the Directory.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH pointed out many alterations which ought to be made in the India Board, and suggested that the patronage of the Company should be diminished by transferring the chief appointments from the Board to the Government.—The motion was then agreed to.

In reply to a question from the Earl of Albemarle, the Earl of DERBY said it was not the intention of the Government to make any alteration at present in the law relative to the *Grant to Maynooth*; but he must say that the conduct of the Catholic clergy in Ireland, and the course pursued by the Court of Rome, increased the difficulty of defending a grant given for the purpose of making the people loyal and content, having, in fact, no other object but conciliation.

On Monday, the 5th, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH called the attention of the house to the *War with Ava*, which had been commenced, and which he viewed in a very serious light. He recalled the circumstances of the last war, that the magnitude of the present crisis might be seen. In that war we sent a force as large as the army which Bonaparte took with him to conquer Egypt—40,000 men. Of those, 7000 were Europeans. "Of the European troops, two regiments, the Thirteenth and the Thirty-eighth, left Calcutta in April 1824, 1800 strong; and in January 1826 they had not 500 men left fit for service in the field. I doubt much whether at the end of that war 10,000 men out of the whole 40,000 were fit for duty in the field." The army landed at Rangoon on the 11th of May, and it was not able to move till the 11th of February—eleven months! "The troops lived entirely on salt provisions. No fresh provisions were to be had in the country; and when bullocks were sent them, every bullock sent from India cost in freight 10*l.* Notwithstanding the great amount of the force sent to Ava, I believe that the general in advancing on the capital of that country had never more than 5,500 men under arms, and I know that on the 21th of February 1826 he had with him only 4000 men." It was true, we had now advantages that we did not

then possess for the transport of troops; but though we could gain time in transport, we could not save much money; and the nine months of unhealthy season remain. Our large steamers draw too much water to allow of their proceeding far above Rangoon; and if smaller steamers be used to take them higher, or to tow gun-boats, those cannot be used to carry the cattle which are necessary the moment the army leaves the banks of the river. Then, in the last war, Rangoon was attacked by surprise, and was taken by 10,000 troops; and the great Pagoda, which was the protection of it and the key to it, was unoccupied and unfortified. Now, there is a great army; the old town has been razed, and rebuilt four miles away from the river; and the Pagoda is fortified and stockaded in every direction, and rises 200 feet above the river, commanding it with 100 guns; and we take but 7000 troops in all our force. There are home anxieties too. European regiments are taken from Fort William and Fort St. David; so that, in front of the Nepalese, we are withdrawing the only regiment which we have to defend Calcutta. In the last war it was the personal influence of Sir Thomas Munro alone which enabled the government to withdraw from the Madras presidency 28,000 men, including Europeans: such a step would be more difficult now. The Madras army may be needed in the kingdom of Oude; the King has not yet complied with our demands; and the Arabs occupy Hyderabad, and all the forts around it. "I remember, with regret," said Lord Ellenborough, "certain passages in the recent history of the Madras army which make me doubt whether we can despatch a large force of it from that presidency on service beyond the sea. The Bengal soldier is accustomed to leave his wife and family in his native village when called into active service, but the soldiers of the Madras army take their wives and children with them into the camp; so that when they go beyond the sea all their families form a village, which is left without means of support. When I arrived, some years ago, at Madras, I found two regiments there, I will not say in a state of mutiny, but so disinclined to proceed to China, that it became a matter of deep anxiety and apprehension to the government; and the cause of this disinclination was the terrible state of misery and distress in which the wives and children of the men of the regiments which had already sailed for China were left. I see, my lords, no alteration in the regulations of the service which can relieve these persons from the distress which they suffer when their husbands and fathers proceed beyond the sea." But he would assume, for he doubted it not, that we have entire success in the war. The result would be the entire dissolution of the Burmese empire; and then the governor-general would become subject to great and serious pressure as to the policy he should adopt. Enterprising British merchants would urge him, now they have exhausted the teak forests on one side of the river, to enable them to acquire those on the other side, and extend their trade with Rangoon. The Calcutta press is urging that an overland route to China might be opened from the north-eastern frontier of Burmah, if we annexed the whole empire. The Bengal army remembers the great career which the conquest of the Poojumb opened up to it, and is looking forward naturally to the new field for its great talents and ambition: and part of the civil service partakes in the hopes and aims of the army. But the annexation of Burmah, or even of any part of it, would be essentially a false position; and we have seen that such are not to be maintained permanently, with the greatest ability, and the most perfect equipments of our armies. "A false position is as dangerous to an empire as it is to an army, and always ultimately vindicates its power over those who sin against the first principles of true policy. I feel, my lords, perfectly satisfied that the annexation of Ava, drawing in that direction a large portion of the vital resources of the British empire in India, will naturally impair both its civil and military strength. It is because I entertain these apprehensions of the consequences of the military occupation of Ava, and of the fatal effects of our most complete success, that I request you, my lords, to call on her Majesty's ministers to produce such papers on this subject as can be produced without detriment to the public service, for the purpose

of making us acquainted with the causes of this war."—The Earl of DERRY said at once, that there would be no objection to produce such papers as had been asked; but he proceeded to make a statement calculated to allay the anxieties of Lord Ellenborough. The substantive features of his explanations were—that the expedition now on its way to the Burmese shores, or already on them, is not intended to be one against the capital of the country or into the interior; but only to strike a blow against Rangoon and Martaban, which, by striking terror into the minds of the Burmese, and by showing the efficiency of our forces, would induce them to make terms honourable to the British Government. The second time Commodore Lambert entered the Irawaddy he only made the same demands as at first; and now, on his third and last entry, he bore word to the King of Ava, that if he would express his regret for what had occurred, and would pay a sum to reimburse the expenditure caused in our preparations, hostilities would be suspended and peace restored. Lord Derby concluded by observing, that "if the steps taken shall not be sufficient before the rainy season to induce the Burmese authorities to tender their submission and to enter into terms of peace, then it will be for the governor-general to consider what steps it will be his duty to take in the arduous struggle which will then be forced upon him." Lord Ellenborough might be quite sure that he himself was not more anxious than the government to avoid a war, "and what they would consider an inconvenience, a great misfortune, and a disaster, the compulsory annexation of the great Burmese empire, or even a large annexation of territory in Ava, to our dominions."

LORD BEAUMONT brought forward the question of the *Foreign Refugees in this Country*, and trusted that the government would adopt the principles laid down by Lord Granville, and that it would refuse to play the part of an eavesdropper, dogging the heels of every foreigner who arrived in this country, and departing from that hospitality which England had ever shown towards unfortunate exiles. The noble lord also entered into the case of the missionaries recently expelled from Austria, and concluded by moving for papers relating to that expulsion.—The Earl of MALMESBURY entered into explanations connected with his recent despatches to Prince Schwarzenberg, and with regard to the foreign refugees, declared that the hospitality of England should not be denied them so long as they proved themselves worthy of it.—After some observations from Lord ELLENBOROUGH, who spoke in terms of reprehension of the way in which official secrets were betrayed in India, the Earl of DERRY moved that the house at its rising should adjourn until the 19th inst.—The motion was agreed to, and their lordships adjourned accordingly.

The Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND stated, in reply to Lord Montague, that the government had received no official intelligence from Plymouth as to the *Loss of the Birkenhead Steam-Frigate*.—After some observations from Lord ELLENBOROUGH, who spoke in terms of reprehension of the way in which official secrets were betrayed in India, the Earl of DERRY moved that the house at its rising should adjourn until the 19th inst.—The motion was agreed to, and their lordships adjourned accordingly.

On Monday the 19th, the house met after the recess. The Lord CHANCELLOR introduced a bill for the *Abolition of the office of Master in Chancery*. It was intended by the bill to reduce the number of Masters to five, and to confine their jurisdiction to the winding up of all business at present before them. The noble lord adverted also to a second bill in preparation, for a more general improvement in the administration of the law.—Lord CRANWORTH spoke in favour of the principle of the bill, and Lord CAMPBELL, in expressing his concurrence, declared that the great root of all the delay in Chancery was the constant reference of causes from equity to common law courts, and back again.—The Lord Chancellor explained that the bill in contemplation would contain a proviso calculated to effect a partial remedy of that evil. The bill was read a first time.

On Tuesday, the 20th, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE drew the attention of the house to the *Maynooth Grant*, and having compared the statement made on a former occasion by Lord Derby with that made a day or two ago by the Solicitor-General, wished to know distinctly

what were the intentions of government with respect to the maintenance of the grant.—The Earl of DERBY, after some explanations as to the statements made by himself and the Solicitor-General, said that the government had no present intention of altering the existing law, and that ample notice would be given should circumstances arise to induce the government to take another course.—An animated but desultory discussion then arose, in which Lord Grey, Lord Derby, the Earl of Harrowby, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and the Bishop of Cashel, took part, after which the subject dropped.

On Thursday, the 22nd, the Earl of DERBY moved the second reading of the *St. Albans Disfranchisement Bill*, which, after some conversation, was agreed to without opposition.—A discussion subsequently arose upon a motion proposed by Lord REDESDALE, to allow certain electors of the borough—whose petition he had presented at an earlier period of the sitting—to be heard by counsel against the bill on its going into committee; the Marquis of CLANRICARDE and Earl GREY objecting, on the ground that there had already been sufficient inquiry into the case, and that no new facts could possibly be elicited. In the end, a division was taken; and the motion was carried by 41 against 15 votes.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Monday, March 29th, Mr. WALPOLE, the Home Secretary, moved that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, himself, and the Secretary at War, should prepare and bring in the bill to amend and consolidate the laws respecting the *Militia*, for which leave had already been given; and entered into explanations of the reasons for the measure, and its details. It was admitted, he supposed, that this country ought to be, in its means of defence at least, placed upon an equal footing with other countries, looking at the elements of anarchy and confusion which might easily break out not many months hence. It was true, our friendly relations with other powers had increased and were increasing; but this fact would show that we were not influenced by jealousy or fear. The first question was, were we in such a state of defence as a great country like this ought to be in? The testimony of the first military and naval authorities showed that it had not sufficient provision against a sudden emergency. Steam navigation exposed the country to more imminent peril than at former periods; past governments had in times of panic proposed measures similar to this; and the house had already decided that something ought to be done to put the country in a better state of defence. There were, he observed, three classes of objectors to a militia. One said, our defences were sufficient as they were; but Mr. Walpole showed that while our army was very little larger than that of Belgium notwithstanding the dimensions of our empire, in case of a sudden incursion not more than 25,000 men could be brought to bear upon any one point; and that our ships in commission at home consisted of only 9 of the line, 5 frigates, 1 sloop, and 17 steamers. Others said that there was no immediate necessity for preparation; but hasty preparations, while less perfect, would aggravate the panic. The time of preparation and of action ought not to be simultaneous. The third class of objectors urged that we should increase our regular army. This would add greatly to the permanent expense, and both army and navy were instruments of attack as well as defence, so that an augmentation of either would rouse suspicion and provoke jealousy. The militia was a national institution—a force familiar to the country; we had actually at this moment a militia, for the law was only suspended. The militia had, moreover, done good service to the country, and, in assuming the character of soldier, the militia-man did not renounce that of citizen. After a short review of the history of the militia laws, Mr. Walpole proceeded to develop the plan proposed by the government—namely, first, to raise, if possible, without abandoning the ballot, a force of 80,000 volunteers, to be drilled and trained under the regulations of the 43d George III.; 50,000 only to be raised the first year, and 30,000 the second year, the period of service to be five years. Secondly, it was proposed to raise these men by bounties of 3*l.* or 4*l.*, either to be paid

down at the time, or at the rate of 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* per month, the volunteer being at liberty to take it in one way or the other. Thirdly, with respect to the officers, it was proposed to dispense with the qualifications required by the 43d George III., in regard to all officers below the rank of major, and generally to consider the having been in the army equivalent to qualification. Fourthly, the bill provided that the number of days' training required in the year should be twenty-one, the crown having the power to extend the period to seven weeks, or to reduce it to three days. Lastly, with respect to the embodiment of the men, it was not proposed to make any alteration in the existing law. The expense required for bounty and equipment would be about 1,200,000*l.*; but if spread over five years, it would be about 240,000*l.* a-year; except that during the first year the cost of equipment would raise the expense to 400,000*l.*, including (as Mr. Walpole afterwards intimated) the clothing. This being a national defence, it was intended that the expense of the equipment, arms, and bounty should, save in districts which should not provide the proper quota, be borne by the public purse. Having disposed of anticipated objections, Mr. Walpole concluded by appealing to the house to accept this measure, and thereby assist the government in accomplishing the object of providing an effectual defence for the country with as little interference as possible with the ordinary habits and industry of the people; observing that, if it were rejected, either from party motives or through an overweening confidence in the assumed impregnability of our insular position, the government would have the satisfaction, at least, of knowing that they had endeavoured to do their duty.—Mr. HUME, not objecting to the introduction of the bill, condemned the policy of the measure as unnecessary to the present time, when this country was upon the most amicable terms with other nations.—Sir DE LACY EVANS preferred an addition to the regular force to a militia.—Mr. M. GIBSON thought it would be better to defer this measure until after an appeal should have been made to the country. He would rather increase the regular army.—Lord PALMERSTON said it was his intention to give this measure every support in his power. An increase of the regular army could not be maintained; and 8,000 regular troops would cost as much as the drilling of these 80,000 men.—Lord J. RUSSELL, agreeing that our means of defence should be increased, thought the statement of Mr. Walpole, however explicit in some parts, was less so in others, which, not being agreeable to touch upon, he had seemed anxious to avoid. If 80,000 volunteers were not obtained recourse must be had to the ballot; how was that to be done, and what were the classes to be subject to the ballot? It would be most unjustifiable in him (Lord John) to offer any obstacle to the introduction of this bill; at the same time it was for the country to judge, and although he should prefer a militia force to an increase of the regular army, the country might entertain a repugnance to it.—Mr. WALPOLE said, it was intended, if there should not be a sufficient number of volunteers, to fall back upon the ballot, which would extend from the ages of eighteen to thirty-five.—Mr. CORBEN condemned the measure *in toto*, as being wholly unnecessary, and recommended that we should propose to the French to lay up their ships in ordinary, reciprocally with ours, ship for ship, instead of continuing our competition of wasteful extravagance.—Mr. BERNESFORD, Secretary at War, and Admiral BERKELEY, supported the Bill.—Mr. FOX MAULE objected to the details of the measure. It went (he said) a great deal farther than the measure of the late Government, and was to all intents and purposes a revival of the regular militia, with all which that implied, of long service at a distance from home, and the necessary destruction of the trade or profession of the recruit unable to procure a substitute. Of course, one volunteer would be worth many impressed men; but his belief was, that they would get very few volunteers for 2*s.* 6*d.* per month, or 1*l.* a-day. Again, had Mr. Walpole examined the confused machinery of the ballot which he proposes to retain? If he had, he would have found, that instead of assembling the force in ten weeks, as the measure of the late Government would have

secured, it would not assemble it in less than ten months. Had he also considered the subject of the local expenses of the old ballot, and all staff clerks, sub-clerks, constable and other officers; and the burden they would impose on the county-rates? Had he reflected on the consequences of taking his force from married men with fixed trades, between twenty-five and thirty-five, instead of confining it to the youth between eighteen and twenty-three.—Mr. HORHOUSE confessed, that until the delivery of Mr. Maule's speech, all the authority was on one side of the House and the argument on the other; but when Mr. Maule came fresh from the War Office, and told them that the bill was almost unworkable, he thought that the weight of authority, as well as that of argument, was against the bill. Contending strongly that the measure ought to be carried on the hustings, and settled by a new Parliament, he moved as an amendment, that there be added to the motion the words "this day six months."—But the SPEAKER decided that this amendment was irregular; so it was not put.—Mr. DISRAELI controverted the main grounds of Mr. Cobden's speech; which was no more or less than "the assumption that in the present state of Europe no nation need defend itself." But his chief object was to ask the favour of unembarrassed progress with the bill, on the ground of formal course and usage; he hoped that there would be no division, because the government were in fact only obeying the former order of the house; all they asked for was permission to lay on the table of the House that bill which the majority of the House had decided should be prepared. There would be many opportunities of ample discussion hereafter.—After some remarks by Mr. Bright and Mr. Roebuck in opposition to the bill, the motion was agreed to without a division.

On Tuesday, March 30, Mr. H. BERKELEY moved for leave to bring in a bill for taking the votes of parliamentary electors by *Ballot*. In the debate which followed, and in which the principal speakers were Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Walpole, and Sir B. Hall, the usual topics were employed on both sides; and the motion was negatived on a division by 246 to 144.

On Wednesday, March 31st, Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD moved the second reading of the *Tenant Right (Ireland) Bill*, which, he said, was not a crotchet of his own, but was demanded by an entire nation, as was proved by the shoals of petitions presented in favour of it, while not a single petition had appeared against it. Mr. Crawford explained at great length the provisions of the bill, the main object of which was to provide full and fair compensation to the tenant for such expenditure of labour and capital upon the land as increased its value.—Mr. NAPIER stated several objections to the bill; namely, it perpetuated a custom which was nowhere a legal custom, and which ought not to be recognised by act of parliament; it did not carry out properly and fairly the principle of compensation for unexhausted improvements; it would affect existing contracts, and its machinery would set landlords and tenants at variance. Concurring with Mr. Crawford in respect to the principle of compensation, he would not go out of the limits of the fixed laws of property, and he concluded with an outline of the measures which the government proposed hereafter to introduce, upon their own responsibility, for consolidating and amending the law upon this subject, facilitating contracts, and providing simple, cheap, and efficacious remedies for both parties.—Mr. Roche, Lord Castlereagh, Mr. V. Scully, Mr. Keogh, and Mr. Grattan, spoke in favour of the measure, which was opposed by Sir J. E. Tennent and Mr. Whiteside.—At 6 o'clock the House adjourned without a division having taken place.—On the following day, the adjourned debate was postponed to the first Wednesday in May.

On Thursday, April 1st, Mr. MONCKTON MILNES brought forward the case of *British Travellers in Austria*, by moving a resolution to the effect that the House had observed with regret, in the correspondence respecting foreign refugees, a menace on the part of a friendly power to visit upon unoffending British travellers its displeasure at that exercise of the right of asylum which is agreeable to the laws, customs, and

feelings of the people of Great Britain. Observing, in the outset, that the manifestation of feeling exhibited in this country towards certain foreign visitors had been spontaneous on the part of the mass of the people, and had received no encouragement from the government, he referred to the communications which had taken place between our foreign department and the Austrian court, and to the despatches of Lord Granville and the reply of Prince Schwarzenburg, which showed, he contended, that the precautions in question were adopted, not as matter of general regulation, but to annoy British subjects and the British government, by way of reprisal and retaliation. Since the accession of the present ministry, he admitted a different tone was held. It had been announced to Lord Malmesbury that the news of this event had been received by the Cabinet of Vienna with "feelings of deep satisfaction," which seemed to imply that the advent to office of the present government was regarded as evidence of a change of our foreign policy, which would be anything but grateful to the people of this country. Such an alteration of tone on the part of the Austrian minister, therefore, did not authorise or require the abandonment of this motion. Mr. Milnes discussed upon moral and legal grounds the right of England to grant an asylum to foreigners of all nations, without distinction of political opinions; and, in conclusion, stated that he had a double motive in proposing this resolution; first, to secure protection to British travellers; secondly, to relieve the present government from the prejudice they might suffer if it were supposed that Prince Schwarzenburg's last letter, breathing hopes of a change in our foreign policy ominous to England, was acceptable to them.—Lord D. STUART seconded the motion.—Mr. WALPOLE desired to avoid all inflammatory topics. He was at a loss to understand whether the motion was intended to blame the late or the present government. After a careful perusal of the papers, he thought that three inferences were to be drawn from them. First, that the conduct of the government of this country, late and present, had upheld and maintained its dignity; second, that the foreign courts had misunderstood, very naturally, our laws and regulations with reference to foreign refugees, so different from their own; and, third, considering that this misapprehension had been more or less removed by the representations of the late government, and the conciliatory tone employed, and that more amicable relations now existed, that it was inexpedient by an abstract resolution to revive feelings of dissatisfaction which had disappeared. With respect to the sentiment expressed by the imperial cabinet upon the accession of the present government, it had been inspired by the line of policy shadowed out by the Earl of Derby in the House of Lords, which had further contributed to remove the unpleasant feeling that had so long disunited the two states. The present government, he assured the house, were as determined as any past government to maintain the asylum which this country afforded to distressed foreigners; and, under these circumstances, he put it to them whether it was wise to pass a resolution which, at the very least, would appear to foreign powers to cast something like a reflection or censure upon their conduct.—Lord PALMERSTON thought that Mr. Milnes had done right in bringing the subject before the House; but suggested that, having accomplished his object by doing so, he should assent to a motion of the previous question; and the matter was so disposed of accordingly.

Sir DE L. EVANS moved for leave to bring in a bill for appointing commissioners to inquire into the existence of *Bribery in the Borough of Harwich*, supporting his motion by evidence taken before various election committees.—Mr. K. SEYMER opposed the motion, for which, he contended, no parliamentary case had been made out.—Mr. CLAY observed that it was a matter of notoriety that corrupt practices prevailed at Harwich.—Mr. WALPOLE said, a commission like this should not issue except upon a clear case, otherwise a most unconstitutional power would be lodged in the hands of parties, which he should be unwilling to invest in any one without strong grounds. The only precedents were those of Sudbury and St. Alban's, and he showed the distinction between those

cases, where the bribery had been systematic, general, and almost universal, and the case of Ilarwich. It was very inexpedient, he thought, to issue such a commission upon a supposed notoriety of corruption, and to go back for nine or ten years.—After some observations from Mr. T. Duncombe, Mr. Roebuck, and others, the motion was negatived by 137 against 95.—Mr. T. DUNCOMBE thereupon moved that, as inquiry was refused, a new writ should issue for the borough.—Mr. BRIGHT thought that, under such circumstances, notice of the motion should be given. He moved that the debate be adjourned.—After a discussion of a somewhat desultory character, both motions were withdrawn, and notice was given by Mr. Duncombe of a motion for the issue of a writ.

On Friday, April 2nd, Lord JOHN RUSSELL intimated his intention, on Monday, of putting some questions to the government respecting the intended *Dissolution of Parliament*, some expressions of Lord Derby having created an impression that the government had changed its intention in this respect.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER saw no necessity for delaying until Monday to reply to the question of the noble lord. His noble friend at the head of the government never contemplated any change of intention with regard to the dissolution. Without saying at what precise period it might be thought advisable to recommend a dissolution, it was the intention of the government to resort to a dissolution as soon as the measures necessary for the public service and the good government of the country should be disposed of, and assemble a new one within the present year, and in such ample time that the opinion of the new parliament might be taken on the policy of the present administration.—Mr. HUME hoped that the government would go one step further, and specify the measures they deemed it necessary for the public service to pass before the dissolution.

On Monday, the 5th, Mr. OSBORNE renewed the complaint of the want of distinct explanations of the *Plans and Policy of the Government*. He called upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to afford some more clear and distinct ideas upon this subject than the vague declarations hitherto made. The country had no guarantee what were the measures which the government might not think "indispensable for the good government of the country." The course they were pursuing, in endeavouring to evade this question, was not one which the people would think worthy of a British ministry.—Lord J. MANNERS said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had repeatedly declared the course which the government intended to pursue, and there was no discrepancy between his declarations and those made in another place. If the combined opposition thought they had a majority in that house, let them appeal to it, and the government would not shrink from the issue of a general election, being anxious, as soon as the necessary business was transacted, to abide by that constitutional test. So long, however, as the opposition did not exercise the power which they boasted they had, they ought, in justice to the country, to discontinue this course of interruption, and to allow the necessary business of the country to be conducted.—Mr. ROEBUCK asked why the question was not brought to an issue by the direct vote of that house. He charged the government with being in office on false pretences, and he took as an example the conduct of their leader in that house, who had fastened upon the late Sir Robert Peel, pursuing him night after night; he had assumed office as the great Protectionist chief, and he (Mr. Roebuck) appealed to the house whether there had ever been so remarkable a difference of opinion as that of Mr. Disraeli in opposition and in office. He now said "the country will decide;" but what would it decide? The question of protection? No; it was to decide "upon our policy." But what was that policy? Had Mr. Disraeli been thus vague in opposition? Oh, no. He had ridden to power on the back of the protectionists, with the cry of "protection," but now it was "our general policy." This shuffling course was highly mischievous for various reasons, and especially because it created in men's minds a low opinion of the morality of public men. He called upon Lord John Russell, for his own character and for the sake of the

country, to bring this question to a settlement.—Mr. ADDERLEY complained of the unfairness of these attacks upon the government, which were as inconsistent as they were groundless.—Mr. C. VILLIERS, on the other hand, taxed the government with want of candour and sincerity. The country, he observed, from one end to the other, asked what they were going to do.—Mr. HENLEY wished to know what the other side wanted. The country was under no mistake as to what the government meant by their declarations in both houses. They had changed no principles; but whether a party could carry out all its principles depended, not upon themselves, but upon the country.—Mr. S. HERBERT, with reference to the assertion that the progress of necessary business had been impeded by the interruptions of the opposition, observed that there had not been a single division adverse to the government, and that there never had been such an amount of public business transacted with so little criticism. He was, however, satisfied with the arrangement made, that the question of protection or free trade should be determined by an appeal to the country as soon as the state of public business would permit.—Mr. MOORE believed the repeal of the corn laws had inflicted great injury in Ireland, but that his countrymen did not expect a return to protection, and that the Irish people had irrevocably determined that Lord J. Russell should never again hold office.—Sir J. TYRELL charged the opposition with attempting to misunderstand the government explanations. He thought that the Chancellor of the Exchequer deserved a "crown of glory" for the mode in which he had demonstrated that the agriculturists had a better claim on the ground of justice than on that of protection.—Mr. P. HOWARD dwelt upon the short-comings of government, whose measures had nearly all been prepared by their predecessors, whose parliamentary explanations had been evasive, and who had given to certain inquiries answers calculated to promote religious strife.—Mr. NEWDEGATE declared that the protection societies throughout the kingdom had given their confidence to Lord Derby because they believed him sincere, and because he was the minister most likely to promote a happy understanding between the protectionists and those with whom they differed. He defended the policy of Lord Derby in regard to dissolution, and commended him for not submitting to Mr. Cobden's dictation.—Sir R. H. INGLIS declared his conviction that the government had no intention of protracting the session; but if the house continued to interpose delay in the transaction of the business of the country, the blame of a deferred dissolution would not rest with ministers.

Mr. HUME called the attention of the house to the *State of the Ionian Islands*, descending upon the conduct of Sir H. Ward, the manner in which the elections were influenced by his government, the suppression of the liberty of the press, and the number of persons banished without trial. He expressed a hope that an end would be put to these tyrannical proceedings, and that the people would be permitted to enjoy some of the benefits of the constitution they were promised.—Sir J. PAKINGTON said, that although he was not prepared to justify in every particular every act of Sir H. Ward, he would say that he had done his best to preserve the just authority of the crown under circumstances of great difficulty and embarrassment. He detailed the facts of several cases to which Mr. Hume had alluded, and in reply to the call made by him upon the present government to recall Sir H. Ward, said such was not the intention of her Majesty's government, who considered that Sir Henry had endeavoured honestly to do his duty.—Mr. F. PERL considered that the observations of Mr. Hume had been fully and satisfactorily answered by Sir J. Pakington. He hoped the government would not consent to send out a commission to inquire into the rebellion of 1849, as proposed by Mr. Hume, which would not be attended with any advantage, while it would convey a very grave censure upon Sir H. Ward. Having paid much attention to the subject, he was of opinion that Sir H. Ward had entitled himself to the gratitude of the Ionian people, and to the approbation of that house; that it was owing to the energy and ability of his administration that peace and

order had been preserved in Cephalonia in 1849. Mr. Peel entered into a vindication of Sir H. Ward's conduct and general policy, and observed that, though from 1803 to 1848 the Ionian people did not enjoy the full measure of independence and constitutional government which had been guaranteed to them, in 1849 very great and radical reforms had been carried out in the islands.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON moved a vote of 460,000*l.* for the *Caffre War*.—Sir W. MOLESWORTH, not meaning to oppose the vote, observed that there had been a great and increasing military expenditure incurred on account of South Africa, the average annual amount in the three years ending in 1850 having been three times that of the three years ending 1836. He attributed the great increase in this expenditure, first, to the enormous extent of our frontier; and secondly, to the abolition of the old and effectual system of self-protection by the colonists. Our outlay had been increasing since 1833, and was now fourfold its original amount. He went fully into the history and characteristics of the modes in which we had dealt with the colony, especially dwelling on Sir C. Napier's plan of compensating the colonist out of public money for robberies committed by the Caffres. He saw no prospect of reducing the expenditure during the continuance of our present system, which compelled the English people to pay about 5*l.* a-year for every colonist in Africa. But after the war should be over, he thought that our system ought to be entirely changed, and that our military force should be reduced to a garrison at Cape Town.—Mr. GLADSTONE said that the present votes were for a portion only of the extra expense of the Caffre war. But the figures, frightful as they were, could by no means be considered the worst part of the affair. Our posterity would hardly believe that we could have gone to the furthest parts of the world hunting for an opportunity of squandering money, and for doing it in a way most likely to destroy the independence and self-reliance of our colonists. The government of South Africa cost us more per head than the government of Great Britain and Ireland. He was now taking a pecuniary view of the question, but he would ask, what possible good was accruing from our Caffre wars? He entered his protest against the principle set forth in the despatches to General Cathcart. It was to the colonists themselves that we must look for the regulation of their frontiers, and for the settlement of the question what those frontiers were to be. Give the boon of local liberty without stint, but, of course, subject to imperial unity, and we should hear no complaint of the duty of self-defence. They must be assisted against such enemies as they cannot be expected to cope with, and they must be liberally supported until we had extricated ourselves from our old colonial system.—Lord J. RUSSELL said, that the colonial system of past days, especially that of America (to which Mr. Gladstone had adverted), was conducted upon different principles to those now recognised, and had actually been abandoned by America herself, who had called in her regular forces to defend her frontier. He did not believe that the house would have heard patiently that the Caffres had been allowed to butcher our colonists, and that the latter had been left to their own resources. Neither would the people of this country allow injustice to be dealt out to the savages themselves, and the consequence of both honourable feelings had been that the present system had grown up. The question was, what was to be done when military men had effected their utmost? His lordship defended the despatch to General Cathcart, and proceeded to examine Mr. Gladstone's arguments. The real difficulty arose from the fact that the white population at the Cape was so exceedingly small, and that the spread of population was not sufficiently great to form a strong frontier. Hence a military frontier had been necessary, and hence again this enormous expenditure. The future was the important question. To withdraw the troops and leave the colonies to be overwhelmed would tarnish the British name, while it was impossible to keep up an immense military establishment. He thought some course between the two might be adopted, that of giving sufficient protection, but not pushing the frontier too far. For such a policy a force of 4,000 men might be enough. The colonists would be neither willing nor able to do alone what we had done

for them, but in co-operation with us they would act vigorously. There had been no disposition to deny free institutions to the Cape, but he was sorry for the misunderstandings which had arisen. He believed that the Cape colonists would conduct their institutions in a satisfactory manner; and he concluded by a tribute to the military reputation of Sir H. Smith, regretting that, as a governor, he had been misled by knowledge acquired under circumstances to those of the present time.—Sir J. PAKINGTON said, that the frontier question was one of the greatest practical difficulties in the way of government. The boon of freedom had already been conferred (somewhat tardily) upon the Cape colonists, and he had done all he could to facilitate their dealing with the new institutions. But the enormous frontier created under the late administration rendered the question one of exceeding difficulty. He entered into the history of these acquisitions, and contrasted Lord Glenelg's policy with that of Lord Grey. It was, he said, a problem of no ordinary complexity how to deal with territory of which we had once taken possession in the name of the English crown. The government were placed in a peculiar position, but he hoped the country would appreciate the course they should take, namely, to give their best attention to the subject, and to act with the utmost caution. Before taking any important steps he thought they ought to wait, not only for the news which was daily expected, but for the conclusion of the war, and for the establishment of the free institutions now in progress.—Mr. ROEBUCK said, that the last speaker did not understand the question, which also lay deeper than any preceding speakers had placed it. The feeling of the people of England was the real difficulty. We, taking European warfare into the bush, were and should be beaten, but the colonists could deal with their enemies were it not for Exeter hall. Give the colonists the power of England to back them, and the white man will exterminate the black, and this was the only solution of the difficulty, unless we withdrew our colonists altogether.—Mr. ADDERLEY said, that the vote demanded by no means represented the price we should have to pay for one of Lord Grey's experiments. He was not disposed at that period to go into any examination of Lord Grey's policy, the less so as recent events had shown that his lordship himself did not believe that it would bear minute investigation. He had full confidence in the spirit in which the present Colonial Secretary would approach the subject, and would assure him of the loyalty of the Cape, which only desired constitutional freedom.—Colonel THOMPSON traced the origin of the war to the fantastic resolution on the part of an English governor to place his foot on the neck of an African chief, and declared his belief that every nation with whom we came in contact hated us.—Mr. F. PEEL, adverting to the manner in which Earl Grey's name had been held up, he said, in a most unfavourable light, declared that when Mr. Adderley brought forward his menaced motion, he should be prepared to enter upon a full defence of the course pursued by Lord Grey, particularly with reference to the despatch in which Sir H. Smith had been informed of his recall. He admitted that large additions of territory had been made to the colony, and when the opportunity offered he would show that these territorial acquisitions had not been made in pursuit of any policy of our own, but in the interest of the colony.—Mr. H. DRUMMOND defended Sir H. Smith, and characterised Earl Grey's conduct towards him as "dirty" and "unmanly."—Mr. HUME recommended Mr. Peel to defend Earl Grey at once, as he would be the only man in or out of England who would think of doing so.—Lord J. RUSSELL said, that should the debate referred to by Mr. Peel be brought on, he should be prepared to take his full share of responsibility. Lord Grey had been very reluctant to recall Sir H. Smith, and the late government had been anxious to give him every opportunity of success, but had been unanimous in agreeing that he ought to be recalled. After some observations in answer to Mr. Drummond (who had observed how differently Sir Harry would have been treated had he been connected as was Lord Torrington), he declared that he had done Earl Grey injustice.—Mr. HINDLEY thought Mr. Peel should have taken that opportunity of defending

Earl Grey. The sooner we returned to Lord Glenelg's policy the better. The vote was then agreed to.

In reply to a question from Colonel ROMILLY, relative to the proposition for granting *County Franchise to the Militia*, Mr. WALPOLE stated that he intended to withdraw it altogether, although he had thought it would have served three good purposes—first, to induce respectable men to volunteer for the militia; second, to insure continuous residence; and, thirdly, to reward the service done to the public by volunteering into the militia. Mr. Walpole stated that the proposition originated with himself, but Mr. C. WILLIAMS declared that it simply originated in a bad after-dinner joke of Lord Derby's which the Home Secretary was sufficiently ill-advised to adopt as a serious proposal for extending the franchise.

In committee on the *Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill*, Mr. WALPOLE proposed an amendment limiting the inquiries of the commission, but it was strenuously opposed, and on a division the government were in a minority—99 voting for ministers, and 116 against them.

On Tuesday, April 6, Mr. M. GIBSON inquired whether it was intended to take steps to place the *Relations between this Country and the Brazils* on a more satisfactory footing, and whether they contemplated any result from the joint action of the governments of France and England with reference to the free navigation of the internal water communication connected with the River Plate.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that Sir C. Iltham, on the part of her Majesty, in conjunction with the Chevalier de St. George, would proceed on the 16th upon a visit of friendly communication and explanation to Rio, and it was hoped that the mission would succeed in obtaining the free navigation of the river for all countries.

Mr. G. THOMPSON moved to go into committee to consider the introducing a bill for establishing a registration office for the benefit of the *Ballast-Heavers of the Port of London*.—Mr. HENLEY did not offer any opposition to this first stage of the measure, the details of which he had not seen; but there were, he observed, difficulties in its way, amongst which was its tendency to create another monopoly.—Mr. LABOUCHERE agreed that the house ought to legislate with great jealousy and caution upon these subjects, since it was against principle, and he recommended that the matter should be previously inquired into before a select committee.—Mr. GLADSTONE suggested that the appointment of a select committee should precede the introduction of the bill, and Lord J. MANNERS that after the second reading the bill should be referred to a select committee.—The motion was then agreed to, and the house, in committee, adopted a resolution that leave be obtained to bring in a bill, which was granted.

The house went into committee upon the *County Courts Extension Bill*; but, after a good deal of discussion as to the expediency of going on with this bill pending the expected measure for the reform of the Court of Chancery, it was determined that the chairman should report progress, with a view to reprinting the bill with its amendments.—The house then adjourned to the 19th inst.

On Monday, the 19th, the house met after the holidays.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL obtained leave to introduce a bill to dispense with the summoning of *Grand Juries in the Metropolitan Districts*, and to effect other amendments in the criminal law.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of CONTROL, in moving the appointment of the select committee to inquire into the operation of the act of 1831 for the *Better Government of our Indian Territory*, explained the various alterations made in the powers of the East India Company by the acts of 1784, 1793, 1813, and lastly that of 1833, when the trading powers of the company were entirely abolished. That act, he said, was to exist for forty years, and amongst the conditions upon which the East India Company made the immense sacrifice which that act required at their hands, was this, that their stock of six millions, which they had lent to the public, should not be subject to redemption until 1874, but that, if during this period of forty years, parliament should take from the company the privilege of being the agents for the government and adminis-

tration of the affairs of India (which of course involved what they had always possessed, the patronage to all appointments), they should have the right to demand the redemption of their stock at the rate of 200l. for every 100l. Government finding that unless some provision for the renewal of the act was made previous to 1854, it must expire in due course, had three courses open to them—to allow the act to expire, to renew it as it was without further inquiry, or to propose an investigation by means of a select committee of both houses, as a preparatory step to legislation. They had, adopting the views of their predecessors, determined on the latter alternative. To enable the house to judge of the effects of the act of 1833, he referred to the progress India had made since that period, financially, commercially, and administratively. The total revenue had increased from 18,407,000l. to 24,379,000l., and though the charge had increased from eighteen to twenty-five millions, leaving a deficiency of 6,780,000l., India had herself contributed 16,000,000l. out of the 26,000,000l. which the wars in Afghanistan, Scinde, and the Punjab had cost. The imports had increased in the same period from 6,154,000 to 12,544,000, and the exports from 8,000,000 to 18,000,000—the inward tonnage from 108,873 to 252,153, and the outward tonnage from 83,776 to 180,800; and the territory had been extended by 165,000 square miles, containing a population of not less than 9,000,000. At no former time had our Indian empire stood upon so secure a footing, or in a position so well calculated to develop its resources. In the administration of affairs every disposition had been exhibited to promote the natives to posts of public employment, and to fit them for it by providing the means of education. The number of natives employed at present in administrative offices was 2,846, independent of those who were engaged in dispensing justice in the various courts of law. In 1835, the only educational institutions endowed by government in British India, were the Mahometan College at Calcutta and the Sanscrit College at Benares; now there were forty such establishments in Bengal and the north-western provinces, wherein the education given was of the highest character. Many important works, as roads, canals, and river navigations, had been completed or were being carried out, which works had absorbed far more than the whole amount by which the gross expenditure exceeded the revenue. Provision for the spiritual care of India had also been made, and the number of bishops and chaplains now reached 130, besides six connected with the Scotch church. It would be a subject for the committee to consider how far the East India Company should continue to possess the power they now had of dispensing the patronage of the Indian government; but he denied that at present that patronage was improperly exercised. After describing the relative powers of the board of control and the court of directors, and explaining that in all the political affairs of the empire the latter were controlled by the former, he concluded by referring to the committee the question, whether the act, which he had shown by the result had worked well during the last twenty years, should be renewed or not.—Mr. ANSTAY moved an amendment by way of an address, representing the lateness of the session and the necessity of obtaining information from India itself as to the condition and wishes of the natives before renewing the act, or passing any other measure on the subject, and praying that a commission of inquiry be sent to India.—Remarks were made by several members, particularly Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who said that he was not dissatisfied with the experience of the present system; under the act of 1833 he believed this country had performed its duty to India—the people had been protected from the tyranny of petty kings, justice had been impartially administered, education had been promoted, and political morality disseminated—and, therefore, in its main features, he was favourable to its renewal.—The motion for appointing the committee was agreed to, the amendment being negatived without a division.

On Tuesday, the 20th, Mr. HORSMAN brought forward the case of the *Rev. Mr. Bennett*, by moving an address to her Majesty, praying that inquiry might be made, whether due respect was paid to the decrees of the constitutions and canons ecclesiastical of the Church of

England in the recent institution of that gentleman to the vicarage of Frome. He traced the history of Mr. Bennett from his appointment to the incumbency of St. Paul's in 1843, observing that he had been known previously by his preachings and writings, and that remonstrances and warnings had been addressed to the Bishop of London against his appointment, which were, however, disregarded. Subsequently to the appointment complaints poured in upon the bishop; tumultuous proceedings took place on Sundays in the locality of the church; the case forced itself upon the attention of the public, the press, and the bishop of the diocese, who required Mr. Bennett to resign his living, which, after some communications with the bishop, he did, and his resignation was accepted, the grounds assigned by the Bishop of London for this proceeding being, among other things, that Mr. Bennett had been unfaithful to the Church and insubordinate to his diocesan. The people of England (Mr. Horsman continued), never expected that Mr. Bennett, after this, would have appeared in any pulpit of the Established Church; it was with astonishment, therefore, that within twelve months of his resignation they found Mr. Bennett instituted to a vicarage in another diocese. His resignation took place in January, 1851; and in the summer of that year it had been represented that, when travelling in Germany, he had regularly attended mass in a Roman Catholic church. The people of Frome, clergy and laity, in a panic, addressed Lady Bath, the patron, intreating her to refrain from nominating Mr. Bennett; she replied that the appointment had been made and could not be revoked. The presentee, however, must be approved by the bishop, and the parishioners memorialised the Bishop of Bath and Wells, objecting to the institution of Mr. Bennett on three grounds—first, his own published writings; second, the Bishop of London's testimony against him and his virtual expulsion of Mr. Bennett from his diocese; third, the bishop's statement of the reasons why Mr. Bennett's resignation was made and accepted. Mr. Horsman explained the conditions under which a clerk in holy orders, removing from one diocese to another, can alone be instituted by the bishop of the diocese into which he removes, and animadverted with some severity upon the manner in which the Bishop of Bath and Wells had replied to the Frome memorialists. In conclusion, he called upon the laity, constituting, he said, the Church of England, to bestir themselves in a constitutional manner, by laying their petitions at the foot of the throne, praying Her Majesty to protect the Church, not against assaults from without, but against traitors within, and compel even the dignitaries of the Church to show that obedience to the law which the Bishop of Bath and Wells had so wantonly repudiated.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted the importance of this subject; but said that the means at the command of the house were inadequate to deal with this case. According to Mr. Horsman, a great grievance had been sustained by some of her Majesty's subjects; but he had proposed no remedy. Suppose the house assented to the motion, and the Crown issued a commission of inquiry, it would have no power to force individuals to give information. Either there was at present a remedy for this alleged grievance or not. He imagined there must be an appeal to the Archbishop, and if so, that was a reason why the House of Commons should not interfere by substituting a measure confessedly inadequate. If he was told there was no such appeal, was that not a reason for legislation? If Mr. Horsman believed there was no remedy by appeal, he was justified in bringing the case before the house; but he should propose to legislate in a suitable manner. Mr. Disraeli concluded by moving the previous question.—A discussion followed, in which many took part. In the course of it Lord JOHN RUSSELL suggested that the better course would be to wait until the ministry of the Crown should, in a friendly spirit, ascertain the facts, when the house would be in a better state to determine what steps to take, either by enforcing the existing law, or by new legislation.—Mr. GLAISSTONE made a similar suggestion.—And Mr. WALPOLE said, that, in compliance with these suggestions, the government would institute an inquiry in a friendly spirit into the facts, in order to see whether any and

what measures should be taken in this matter.—Mr. HORSMAN, however, declined to withdraw his motion upon any other condition than that there should be a judicial inquiry.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER did not see how there could be a judicial inquiry; but he would promise that the inquiry should be a *bona fide* one.—Upon a division, the motion was lost by 100 to 80.

On Wednesday, the 21st, Mr. CONOLLY moved the second reading of a bill to secure the rights of the proprietors of *Salmon Fishings in Ireland*, and to consolidate existing acts on the subject.—The SECRETARY for IRELAND opposed the bill, on the ground that it would destroy the rights of the stake-weir owners, which the act of 1842 had guaranteed, but promised, if the decrease of fish, which he admitted was now proceeding to an alarming extent, continued, that government would take the matter into consideration.—Mr. MONSELL remarked that the decrease of fish dated from the period when parliament began to interfere.—Mr. SCULLY recommended the withdrawal of the bill, and that the subject should be left in the hands of the government. He complained that the regulations of the present fishery commissioners had occasioned much injury to the fishings. Mr. HERBERT reiterated the same complaint, and, with Captain Jones, Sir W. Somerville, and Mr. Whiteside, joined in the recommendation that the bill should be withdrawn, to which Mr. Conolly acceded.

Mr. DEEDES moved the second reading of the *Parish Constables Bill*, which was agreed to after a brief discussion, and an objection urged by Sir J. TROLLOPE, the chairman of the poor-law board, to any increase of charge on the poor's rate for purposes unconnected with the support of the destitute poor.

On Thursday, the 22nd, Mr. MILNER GIBSON, after the presentation of a vast number of petitions on the subject, submitted a motion adverse to the policy of deriving revenue from *Taxes on Knowledge*, either in the shape of *Paper Duty*, *Stamp Duty on Newspapers*, or a *Tax on Advertisements*, in reference to each of which he proposed a separate resolution, in order not to embarrass those who might be inclined to vote for any one while objecting to any others. In 1834, a committee of the house recommended the abolition of the paper duty, which was injurious, not only in increasing the price, and limiting the supply, of literary works to the great body of the people, but also in limiting the demand for labour, and preventing improvements in the manufacture of the article. But for this tax, and the stringent excise restrictions which accompanied it, we might become the manufacturers of paper for the whole of Europe. Another consequence was, that it kept down the standard of cheap literature, and prevented the publication of a high and useful class of works at a low price. He suspected that the paper duty was originally imposed for the purpose of limiting the supply of literature, and fettering the press; and advertisement duty and the newspaper tax had originated in the same view. Financially speaking, he could not conceive anything more stupid than a tax on advertisements—for what more effectual means could be taken to keep down the revenue than to impose restrictions on the free communication of the wants of commerce, of trade, and of labour? Then look at the gross injustice of a tax which charged a poor servant girl who advertised for a place the same amount as the rich trader, or the public company whose advertisement occupied a whole column of a newspaper—and which allowed advertisements in omnibuses, in railway carriages, on walls, and advertising vans, to go free, while it taxed every single announcement of a want in a newspaper. The "Daily News" was not allowed to publish, as news, useful information about public sales and even charitable notices, without being charged duty on each, whilst sporting papers were permitted to publish announcements of prize-fights, dog-fights, racing appointments, steeple-chases, and rat-killing matches, without being taxed for them. The paltry 150,000*l.* a-year the revenue derived from this tax, never could have been the reason for imposing it, nor could it be the ground for retaining it. With regard to the newspaper-tax, it originated in a recommendation of the crown in 1711 to restrict the liberty of the press; and, in the various acts for continuing and altering it,

there was not even the allegation that revenue was the object. With regard to the equivalent, as it was called, of free transmission through the post, it should be remembered that the tax was charged on 80 million copies, while only 33 million passed through the post—and, if the stamp were removed, arrangements might be made for the conveyance of these 33 million at a much less charge than was now paid. After demonstrating the uncertainty of the law by the example of the prosecution against the "Household Narrative," commenting on the impropriety of making excise-officers censors of the press, and animadverting on the injustice of exempting what are called class newspapers from the tax, while general newspapers were liable, he concluded by moving the resolution against the paper duty.—Mr. EWART seconded the motion, and quoted the opinions of Mr. Knight and the Messrs. Chambers, the publishers, as to the evil effects of the paper duty.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER was not aware that the injurious effect of the excise laws was greater in the case of paper than in that of soap, and other exciseable articles. Considering the question in a financial point of view—in which only he was at liberty to regard it—he did not feel justified in acceding to the motion. The united amount of the three taxes was considerable; but he admitted that the advertisement tax offered a subject for consideration, and that the newspaper duty also stood on a somewhat different footing from the paper duty. He reminded the House that the policy of the country had been, of late years, not to increase indirect taxation. One great source of indirect taxation—the Customs—had been seriously interfered with already; the other great source—the Excise—was now attacked, and a committee, up-stairs, was at the present moment assailing the great sources of direct taxation. What could be more unwise—what more dangerous to the financial position of the country—than that they should go on diminishing the sources of indirect taxation, before they had settled the principles on which direct taxation was for the future to stand? He justified his vote in favour of Mr. Gibson's previous motion, by the circumstances of the time when it was brought forward. The present proposal would involve a sacrifice of revenue to the extent of a million-and-a-half; and, intending, as he did, to make his financial exposition on Friday in the next week, he wished, in doing so, to be left unfettered to deal with all taxes as he thought the interests of the country required.—Messrs. WAKLEY and CORDEN suggested that the debate should be adjourned until after the financial statement.—Mr. GIBSON, understanding that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had promised to consider the question of the newspaper stamp and the advertisement duty, consented to the adjournment.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER disclaimed having given any promise to give any peculiar consideration to those taxes beyond all others. The debate was then adjourned to Wednesday, the 12th of May.

On Friday the 23d, on the reading of the second reading of the *Militia Bill*, Sir DE LACY EVANS moved its second reading in three months. He objected to the bill, as a militia bill; but if we were to have such a bill, he would, he said, infinitely prefer that of the late government. The inefficient force raised by this bill, he contended, so far from increasing, would diminish the means of national defence, which would be better provided for by withdrawing troops from the colonies and concentrating our military resources at home. He entered into professional details with the view of showing the risks and impediments that would be encountered by an invading force, and suggested that we might, therefore, at least wait until a new parliament assembled.—Mr. RICH seconded the amendment.—Sir J. Walsh, Mr. Newdegate, and Sir J. Pakington supported the bill; Mr. F. Peel and Sir R. Peel supported the amendment.—Lord J. RUSSELL said, it was because he thought the country required more defence that he was unable to consent to the second reading of this bill, which he believed would prove an utter delusion. If, according to the opinions of all professional men, the means of warfare had improved, it was not sufficient to recur to what had been done in former wars, and to our immunity from attack fifty years ago. All these precedents failed; and then the question was,

what measures should be taken to meet any possible attack, for which 41,000 infantry in England and Ireland were not, in his opinion, a sufficient force. Lord John then instituted a comparison between the bill of the late government, which tempered, with every practicable alleviation, the condition of compulsion, with the present measure, which appealed solely to mercenary motives; and he asked whether a force so raised was one upon which the country could rely? The bill consisted of two parts—one, that of bounties, would be inefficient; the other, which adopted the ballot, would be oppressive, and interfere with the industry of the country. Speaking for himself alone, he should not recommend a large increase of our standing army; but there were other measures which had been suggested that evening whereby a large force might be raised for defence, including the organisation of the pensioners, a small amount of embodied militia, and a draught of 6,000 or 7,000 men from the colonies. He had, upon the whole, come to the conclusion, believing that the measure would be totally futile, and not provide a good and sufficient defence to the country, to vote for the amendment.—Lord PALMERSTON had hoped that, as the main principle of this measure had been admitted on both sides of the house, it would have been discussed solely with reference to the defence and security of the realm, and that no party feelings would have mixed themselves up with the discussion. It was with pain, therefore, he had witnessed the line which Lord J. Russell and those who acted with him had thought it their duty to take on this occasion. Great misapprehension, he observed, prevailed with regard to the position of the country in reference to its defence. It was impossible to reckon with confidence upon the non-occurrence of some unforeseen event which might require the country to resist or submit to injury. Some said, "Why alarm yourselves with the fear of invasion?" But circumstances had in the last few years materially changed; the facilities for invasion had increased, and our force, regulars and pensioners, was insufficient to meet such an emergency. There were two ways in which this deficiency might be made good—one by adding materially to our standing army, to which he entirely objected—for 8,000 regulars would cost as much as 80,000 militia; the other by a militia force. He was of opinion that this measure was a good one. What was the difference between it and the measure which the late government had made a vital question? In the latter compulsory service was the rule, and voluntary service the exception; in the present measure voluntary service was the rule, and compulsory service the exception—so that the reason why the late government opposed this bill must be because it was not compulsory enough. He believed that by voluntary enlistment as many men could be got as would be wanted, and that they would not be backward in obeying the call of their country in time of need. He, therefore, looked upon this measure as calculated to do an essential good to the country; but if he thought that, in some points, it might be improved, that was no reason why he should oppose the second reading.—The debate was then adjourned.

On Monday the 26th, the adjourned debate on the *Militia Bill* was concluded. The principal speakers in favour of the Bill were Lord Seymour, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. M. Milnes, Mr. S. Herbert, and Mr. Walpole; against it, Mr. Ellice, Admiral Berkeley, Mr. M. Gibson, and Mr. Roebuck. On a division the second reading was carried by 315 to 165.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—March 29th.—Law of Wills Amendment Bill read a third time, and passed.—Proclamation of Assembling Parliament Bill passed through committee.

30th.—Ministerial Explanations.

April 1st.—Administration of Justice in Lunacy Bill read a first time.

2nd.—East India Company's Charter Renewal.—Select Committee granted to Lord Derby.

5th.—War with Ava.—Lord Ellenborough's motion for papers agreed to.

6th.—House adjourned to the 19th.

19th.—Masters in Chancery Abolition Bill introduced.—Mutiny Bills read a third time, and passed.

20th.—Patent Law Amendment Bill (No. 2), read a third time, and passed.

22nd.—St. Albans Disfranchisement Bill read a second time.
House of Commons.—March 29th.—Edinburgh and Canongate Amnity Tax Abolition Bill read a second time.—Mutiny Bill passed through committee.

30th.—Wine Duties: Select Committee appointed.—Mr. Berkeley's motion for Vote by Ballot, negatived by 246 to 144.

April 1st.—British Subjects abroad: Mr. M. Milnes' motion disposed of by the previous question.—Borough of Harwich, Sir De L. Evans's motion for a Bribery Commission, negatived by 137 to 95.

2nd. Ministerial Explanations.—Writ issued for Harwich.—Repayment of Advances (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Protection of Inventions Bill passed through committee.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill considered in committee.

—Militia Bill read a first time.
 5th.—Ministerial Policy, Debate on Mr. Osborne's demand for Explanations.—Caffre War Expenses. Vote in Supply.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill passed through committee.

6th.—County Courts Further Extension Bill, Amendments considered in committee.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill considered in committee. House adjourned to the 19th.

19th.—Grand Juries in London, leave given to the Attorney General to bring in a Bill to Abolish the Passengers Act Amendment Bill, and Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, considered in committee. The Rev. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Horsman's motion lost by the previous question.—Hungarian Refugees, Lord Dudley Stuart's motion for Correspondence agreed to.

21st.—Irish Fisheries, Mr. Conolly's Bill withdrawn.—Parish Constables Bill, and Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill read a second time.

22nd.—Taxes on Knowledge.—Debate on Mr. M. Gibson's motion adjourned.

23rd.—Militia Bill.—Debate and second reading adjourned.

26th.—Militia Bill.—Second reading carried by 315 to 165.—Loan Societies Bill read a third time and passed.—Highway Rates Bill and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Bill, read a second time.

THE Goldsmiths' Company entertained her Majesty's ministers on the 17th. The Earl of Derby made a speech, in the course of which he illustrated, by reference to the recent gold discoveries, his own success in discovering a new crop of statesmen. "Hitherto," said his lordship, "gold has been considered to be confined to a very limited quarter, capable of very small extension, and spread over a very small portion of the globe; but suddenly, to the astonishment of the world, from various distant regions, at one and the same time, it is pouring in upon us with a profusion that is astonishing all ranks and all classes, the effect of which it is difficult to foresee, but of which it is not difficult to say that it must work strange and extraordinary revolutions in the system of society. But it is not only in regard to the discovery of gold that new mines appear to be opened to us. Within a very short time, as with regard to gold, so there was (as it turns out) a popular delusion that the field of statesmen and of the political metal was almost as limited: it was supposed that the crop of statesmen was one of very limited amount, for which, if you were disposed to search, you must dig in certain favoured localities, and confine yourself to searching for them there. I am happy to think, gentlemen, that, to some degree, I have been instrumental in dispelling that illusion. A fortunate adventurer, as I was to consider myself, honoured with the commission from her Majesty to do the best that he could for her service, I have ventured boldly to open a new mine; and I am happy to say that, in the opinion of competent judges, so far as it has yet been worked, the ore that has been raised contains among it as large a proportion of sterling metal, with as little admixture of dross, as any that was ever drawn from the old and exclusive mines to which we were formerly confined." This effusion was received with "loud cheers and laughter."

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

A *Dreadful Murder* was committed in Lambeth on the morning of the 3rd. A son killed his mother, and then cut off her head. The murdered woman was Mrs. Elizabeth Wheeler, a widow, of about the age of forty-four, who resided in Durham Place, Kennington Road, facing Bethlem Hospital for lunatics. The son who killed her was Thomas Cathie Wheeler, twenty-eight years of age, a young man who has been well educated,

and was a good linguist, who once filled a well-paid situation in the Brazils under a mercantile firm, but has been confined in a lunatic asylum twice, and lately has been unable to do anything at all for his own living. His mother was fondly attached to him, and wholly supported him. The landlord of Mrs. Wheeler was Mr. Toms, a carpet-bag manufacturer, who occupied the ground-floor of the house in which she lived; and in a floor above that occupied by her lodged Eliza Phillips, who has known her for nearly thirty years. In the examination of the criminal before the Lambeth Police-Court, Eliza Phillips said, that, hearing a scuffling noise in Mrs. Wheeler's room, followed by a heavy fall, she ran up-stairs and tapped at the door, which was partly opened by the prisoner, and hastily closed again in her face. Fearing that something was the matter, she ran down stairs, and called the landlord and landlady. Mrs. Elizabeth Toms, the landlady, stated that she ran up-stairs, found Mrs. Wheeler on the floor, saw blood, ran down-stairs, and sent persons for a doctor and in pursuit of the prisoner. She added—"Ever since I have been in the house, I have observed something irregular in his manner. Lately I observed that he was getting worse. When he had his fits on him, he looked very pale and ill." Mr. Hutchinson, surgeon, stated that when he came into the room the body of the deceased was still warm; on the table, which was spread with a cloth for dinner, was the poor woman's head. On the floor was a pillow, bearing marks as if a person had knelt on it to be unstained by the blood on the floor. Mr. Toms stated that he followed and overtook the prisoner, and gave him into the custody of policeman Lockyer. Policeman Lockyer described what passed after the arrest. The witness: I said to him, he must consider himself in my custody, and go with me to the station. He said, 'They have not let me go far: I have been tormented for four or five years by them.' I said, 'Do you mean to say that you have killed your mother?' and he said, 'I have—I am sorry for it.' I said, 'How came you to do it?' 'Well,' he said, 'I have been tormented for four or five years.' I asked him how he did it, and he said, 'She was coming in at the door, and I knocked her down with the flat-iron, and I found that that was not sufficient, and I then took the carving-knife. She was very tough, and I then struck her head off with the hatchet.' At the station-house I found a knife in his coat pocket, and I asked him what he was going to do with it, and he said, 'That was for myself.' I understood that he was going to cut his own throat. He said, 'you will find a letter on the table, and take particular care of it.' That was before he said anything about the knife. On going to the house, I found several letters on the table, but I have not had time to read them yet. I searched for the flat-iron, and found it in a bundle of clothes lying by the side of the body. There is blood on the iron.—The prisoner: I spoke more respectfully than the man has stated. I did not make a bravado of it. I spoke sorrowfully, did I not?—The policeman: Yes, you did.—The magistrate: I have already more than once cautioned you as to what you say.—The prisoner: I am quite prepared to go to the scaffold. I struck her with the flat-iron, and blood must have blood; but I did not bravado about it.—Eliza Phillips added this statement: I saw him go out as if on an errand, and heard him return. As he went up-stairs, he talked to himself; that was usual with him, but he talked then louder than usual. Mrs. Wheeler had come into my room at about half-past or a quarter-past ten, and said she was so much frightened of him that she would send him away on Monday, as she could not bear it any longer; and that she had an idea last night to send to the workhouse that he might be taken there. She asked me if my little boy would carry a letter to the post-office for her; and I said he would. She said the letter was for her daughter, who was at Tunbridge Wells. She told me that the prisoner had been standing with a flat-iron in his hand in the morning, and was muttering something that was most awful. At the re-examination on the following day, the prisoner was generally tranquil, but at times his behaviour gave indications of his unhappy state. It became still more evident that it had been known for a long time that the prisoner's mind was affected, and that latterly he was dangerous. A letter from Ilford

stated that he was in custody there in August last, for threatening to shoot a person on the high road. Mr. John Cathie, his uncle, gave evidence at great length. The mother seems to have been too indulgent to her son: he escaped from Wandsworth asylum, and though she was warned that he was still insane, she allowed him to remain at home. On Tuesday se'night, the young man went to his uncle's, at Dalston, and behaved so strangely that Mr. Cathie remarked to his wife, "Poor Tom Wheeler is very bad; I'm sure something fearful will happen." He warned his sister, and she promised to have her son confined immediately. He had never attacked any one before: he was "an exceedingly mild young man—had not the heart to kill a mouse." He had twice enlisted in the army; and on the last occasion had been immediately discharged as unfit for service. The prisoner was then asked in the usual form, by the chief clerk, whether he had anything to say?—Prisoner (starting up suddenly): No; I have nothing further to say at present.—Mr. Cathie stated that he had been informed by the coroner, that in such an evident case of lunacy, the magistrate had power to commit the prisoner at once to close custody, without the painful exposure of a public trial. If possible, it would be most desirable that such a course should be taken. The magistrate said he was not aware that he had such power, but he would look into the act. The prisoner was then committed for trial.

A case occurred at Bow Street on the 3rd, showing the urgent need for *Sanitary Regulations as to the Dwellings of the Poor*. Eight men were summoned for non-compliance with the provisions of the Common Lodging-houses Act. They rent rooms at No. 214 Church Lane, St. Giles's; the proceedings were for the sake of the lodgers, whose health and lives must be endangered by the present state of things. Charles Reeves, a surveyor under the act, gave this evidence. On the night of the 8th March, he went to the house in order to inspect it. In the room No. 1, belonging to the defendant Collins, the size of which was 15 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 6 inches, which ought to have contained only nine persons, he found five families. In one bed, a man, his wife, and three children; in a second, a boy and a girl; in a third, a man and his wife; in a fourth, a man, his wife, and three children; and the same in a fifth, making in all twenty. There were no partitions, nor was the act in any way complied with. In the second room, belonging to Calman, there were ten people, the regulations allowing three; in the third room, in which Leary was the landlord, there were twelve persons, the proper number being eight. In the fourth room, 11 feet 8 inches by 10 feet 8 inches, there were fourteen occupants, the regulation number being four. In the fifth room there were eight lodgers instead of three; in the sixth room, which ought to have contained only seven, there were twenty-two men, women, and children; in the seventh room, there were twelve, six being the authorised number; in the eighth room, there were nine, instead of seven; making altogether, one hundred and seven people sleeping in a house which was adapted to accommodate only forty-seven. The whole of the rooms were in a most filthy and pestilential condition. There were very few bedsteads, and the occupants slept all together without any regard to decency. There was no water laid on, nor was there any means by which these unfortunate creatures could cleanse their persons. The defendants, several of whom could only speak Irish, pleaded ignorance of the act, and promised to do all that was requisite. Mr. Henry remarked upon the miserable condition of the unhappy creatures, who were obliged to resort to such filthy abodes; and said the evil was attributable in a great measure to the owners of the houses, who let them to such persons as the defendants, and extorted from them rents so high that they were obliged to overcrowd their rooms in order to pay them, or even to get their own living. The summons was ultimately adjourned until the 1st of May.

Mr. Charles Washbourne, a gentleman living in Cloudestley Square, has been the victim of a daring *Street Robbery*. On Sunday night, the 4th instant, a woman accosted him near the Angel at Islington, and would not leave him; presently another woman and a man came up; the man knocked Mr. Washbourne

down, and the three then robbed him of his watch. The police apprehended the two women; and stated at Clerkenwell Police Office, on Monday, that the man was known to them; the women were remanded, to allow time for his apprehension.

The ecclesiastical *Appeal by Mr. Whiston, the dismissed Master of Rochester Grammar School, from the Bishop of Rochester, as Dean of Rochester Cathedral, and head of the Chapter, whose proceedings Mr. Whiston has impugned in his pamphlet on Cathedral Trusts, to the same Bishop as visitor of the Chapter*—was begun in the Court of Arches on the 5th inst. The Bishop was assisted by Baron Parke and Dr. Lushington as assessors. Mr. Whiston conducted his own case; and Dr. Adams and Mr. Cowling appeared for the Chapter. Mr. Whiston occupied three days in his opening: exhibiting immense learning and legal erudition, great eloquence of oratory, and a respectful but firm bearing to Bishop and Court. The case was adjourned until after Easter.

At Taunton assizes, on the 5th inst., Thomas Crosby, a solicitor of Bristol, and Elizabeth Lewis, a young woman of respectable connections, were tried for the *Murder of their Infant Child at Bath*. The prisoners went to Bath as "Mr. and Mrs. Slater," and took lodgings at Mr. Searle's, a druggist; a few weeks after the child was born, it was left at nurse with Mrs. Searle; on several occasions, after the mother or both parents had visited the infant, it became ill, and, until the last fatal illness, it always recovered while they were absent. The symptoms were those of poisoning; and at length suspicion was excited, and the prisoners were arrested. The testimony of Mr. Herapath, the analytical chemist, and of the medical man who attended the infant, proved that it had died of poisoning by arsenic. But there was no evidence tracing the possession of arsenic home to the prisoners. An attempt was made to elicit, by cross-examination, that Mr. Searle was very careless with the arsenic he had in his shop, (of course with the intention to imply that some might by mischance have got into the food or medicine of the infant,) but the attempt was not successful. For the defence, the general insufficiency of the evidence to make out the case was urged; and the strong affection for the infant shown by the female prisoner. It was shown that she had also alive a second illegitimate child. The jury acquitted both prisoners.

At the same assizes, on the 6th and 7th, William Sparrow, William Maggs, and Robert Hurd, were tried for the *Murder of Sarah Watts*, on the 24th of September. Sarah Watts was the daughter, about 14 years old, of John Watts and Leah Watts, who occupy a small farm at a place about two miles from Frome. It appeared that the girl had been stunned, and then violated and murdered; and the house was robbed. The evidence against the prisoners consisted of a remarkable declaration made by one of themselves, and its confirmation by another of them, and some circumstantial proofs of a strong nature. Sparrow, on the Monday after the crime, had spoken of having seen the body on "the day after the murder;" he described its position on the floor on that day—but the body had been removed on the day of the murder. He had stated some additional facts as to the mode in which the murder was done, which were not then known to the police, but which afterwards proved true. There was also on his hand a wound such as would have made a similar stain to one found on the wall near where the murder was done; and a handkerchief left by the murderers is believed to have been his. The prisoner Maggs declared that Sparrow committed the murder, because he found the girl knew him. But Mr. Justice Erie summed up for acquittals, and the jury found verdicts of "not guilty." When the verdicts were given, Hurd said, "My lord, we are all innocent: Providence has done this." Maggs said, "I declare to God we are innocent." Sparrow said, "We were not within a mile of the spot: God has done it." Hurd again said, "My lord, it will all be found out within a month: let me speak to Mr. Smith (the detective officer)." They all then said, "Let us see Mr. Smith."

Three corpses, those of a man and two boys, were discovered on the 9th inst., in a tide-pond at Putney;

and there is no doubt they were those of a father and two sons, the result of a *Double Murder and a Suicide*. The pond is a piece of water near the High Bridge, and when the river-tide has entered it the water is twelve feet deep. Two bargemen discovered the bodies. The two youths were tied together by cord, and the arms and legs of the father were bound together by willow withs. A waterman recognised the man as a person he met walking on the towing-path on the previous evening, and he had met the youths following him at some distance behind. The elder, about eleven years old, was carrying the younger, about seven years old, and he said his father was on before him. It seems that the father had inquired at more than one place to get beds for himself and children. A coroner's inquest was held on the 13th. The waterman who drew the bodies from the water described how they were tied. The two children were tied face to face by stout cord, which left them a foot apart; they were not blindfolded, and there was no mark of any violence on them. The father had his arms and feet bound together by willow withs tightly twisted, but in such a manner as he could have done it himself. It proved that he was Mr. Spankhurst, a master basket-maker of Barking. He left home on Wednesday, in anger with his wife; but as he had done so before, taking the boys with him for a day or two, she hoped they would again return safely. He wished to take his little daughter with the boys; but his wife sent word to the teacher of the school not to let the little girl go with her father, and so the child escaped. On Thursday morning Mrs. Spankhurst received this note from her husband:—

"April 7.

"By the time you receive this, me and my boys will be locked in the arms of death; and I am very unhappy that my girl is not with us. You have to thank your own temper towards me, and I made up my mind on my pillow this morning what I should do, before I started; but I have little comments to make, but your temper has been that to me, that it has played on my mind for some time, but it finished before this time; and I hope that my girl will grow and be a good girl, and I should have been happy to have had her with us; and I hope that you will govern your temper for the future. You have no one to thank but yourself for this, and I hope that you will do well.

"God bless you both for ever. Amen. N. S."

Following up the clue of the post-mark, the poor woman put the police at Chelsea on the search; but nothing was discovered by them till the dead bodies were found accidentally. At the inquest, the apprentice of Mr. Spankhurst stated facts which showed that his master had been in a desponding state of mind for some time, and which quite exonerated his master's wife from the unkind charges against her in the melancholy letter. The jury returned this verdict—"That the two boys, Nathaniel Joseph Spankhurst and William Spankhurst, were wilfully murdered by their father, Nathaniel John Spankhurst; who afterwards committed suicide by drowning while in a fit of temporary insanity."

A *Commission of Lunacy* held at Kimmel has declared that William Lewis Baron Dinorben, of Kimmel Park, Denbighshire, has been of unsound mind since January 1846. The inquiry was very brief: three medical men gave testimony, and Lord Dinorben appeared before the jury; there was no doubt of his unfortunate condition. Dr. Phillips Jones, who had attended him from infancy, stated that he had never known him to be capable of any act requiring the exercise of reason and sagacity; the affliction originated from inflammation of the brain in infancy. As it was not necessary to fix a very early period as the date of the lunacy, 1846 was assumed.

A man, named Daws, gardener to Mr. Ayre, of Castle Rising, near Lynn, has *Murdered his Wife and Daughter, and Drowned Himself*. It had been noted of late that he seemed to be in a state of mental depression. Early on the morning of the 10th instant, his body was found in a shallow stream not far from his cottage; there was a slight wound in the throat. When people went to break the news to the wife, they could obtain no answer from within the house. The door was forced, and it was found that both mother and daughter had been murdered. A coroner's jury having heard evidence proving that he had formerly exhibited signs of madness, returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity" in his case.

Another *Murder* was committed in the same neighbourhood, and on the same day. James Pearce and William Day, two boys about twelve years of age, were "crow-scaring" in a field at Outwell Fen; Pearce having a gun to fire off occasionally at the birds, with a little powder and wadding only. The two boys quarrelled; Pearce was struck in the eye; and he fired the gun at Day, so close to him that the wadding was driven into his brain, and he died in a few minutes. Day was missed in the course of the day; his brother hunted for him all night; and at last, on the following morning, found his body buried in a dry ditch, and his cap underneath the ashes of a quick fire, in which an attempt had been made to burn it. Pearce, when arrested, first said he did not kill Day, but he helped to bury him; then, that he did kill him; and then, again, that he did not do it. At the coroner's inquest, his family swore that they knew nothing of the murder till the body was found. A jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter," against the opinion of the coroner, who said that Pearce would be tried for murder, notwithstanding. After the verdict, some members of Pearce's family confessed that they knew of the murder on the afternoon of the day it took place, and that one of them went out and himself buried the body out of sight. The boy was afterwards brought before the Downham magistrates, when he made this statement: "I did shoot him, but I could not help it; I held out the gun towards him and it went off; and then I buried him because I was afraid." He was committed for trial on a charge of killing and slaying, so that he can be indicted either for murder or manslaughter.

A lunatic, named Armsworth, has committed *Suicide*, near the Farnborough station. On Good Friday he was sent from the Union-house, to walk in the fields for the sake of his health, a person accompanying him as a guard; though his quiet behaviour in the house had led to a belief that he was not at all disposed to suicide. When they were near the railway, an express-train was seen to approach; the lunatic darted away from his keeper, ran on to the rails, and advanced to meet the train; the people in charge of the train tried to stop it, but there was no time, and the madman was crushed to death.

The *Inefficiency of the Poor-law* in affording the relief for which it is intended, was exemplified at the Clerkenwell police court on the 17th inst. A sickly-looking youth, about 18 years old, applied to the court for relief. He wandered from his native place, in Yorkshire, in search of employment, three months ago, but having been unable to obtain any, he had sold what few articles he possessed, and had now left only the tattered garments he was wearing. On the previous day, overcome with illness, he called at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Lane, after applying in vain for sustenance at different workhouses and other places; his immediate wants were at once attended to, and he was directed to apply to the sitting magistrate to interfere with some parish to forward him to his proper settlement. The magistrate ordered a constable to go and see what he could do with the applicant amongst the different overseers of the district. In a short time, the constable returned, and said that he had been with the young man to the workhouses of St. Paneras, Clerkenwell, and St. Andrew, Holborn, but could not move either of the parish authorities to take pity on his charge. The magistrate observed that such conduct was abominable. The constable said that the ground of refusal to relieve was in consequence of the applicant not having slept in either parish. The magistrate asked if a fellow-creature was to be allowed to perish in the street on that account? He added, that, under all the circumstances, the applicant should be provided with a bed and proper nourishment in that neighbourhood, and the parish wherein that happened should take all the legal consequences afterwards, if it refused to obey his order to relieve, and otherwise do justice to the young man, whose looks too plainly showed how much he had suffered.

The Court of Exchequer, on the 19th, gave judgment in the action for *Penalties against Alderman Salomans*, for having voted in Parliament, as a member returned for Greenwich, without having taken the oath of abjuration. Mr. Baron Martin's opinion was in favour of the defendant. He held that the substance of the oath did not include the obligatory words, "on the true faith of

a Christian," and that therefore the true intent and meaning of the statute were best fulfilled by the substitution for these words of such a form as was most binding on the conscience of the swearer. Mr. Baron Alderson was of opinion that the words, "on the true faith of a Christian," formed an essential part of the oath, and that the oath is not taken at all if these words are omitted by the person swearing. He regretted the consequences of this state of the law, and hoped that some remedy would be provided by the legislature. Baron Parke and Chief Baron Pollock concurred with Baron Alderson, and judgment was accordingly given for the plaintiff. The declaration was filed to obtain a penalty of 500*l.*; but, by this decision, Alderman Salomans is visitable with the penalties of a "recusant," as defined in the worst days of persecution. On the following day it was stated in the Court of Aldermen that a writ of error is being prosecuted, for the purpose of obtaining the decision of the highest judicial tribunal in the kingdom upon the important question.

In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, on the 23rd, Mr. Lumley, of her Majesty's Theatre, obtained an *Injunction, restraining Mlle. Johanna Wagner from appearing at the Royal Italian Opera*. The application was founded on an agreement concluded between Mr. Lumley and Mlle. Wagner in November last, for her singing at her Majesty's theatre exclusively for three months, from the 1st of this month of April. The application was resisted on the grounds, first, that Mr. Lumley had failed in payment of a sum of 300*l.* within the time stipulated in the engagement; and, secondly, that the clause binding Mlle. Wagner *exclusively* to her Majesty's theatre was an addition inserted without the consent of Mlle. Wagner or her father. The Vice-Chancellor granted the injunction, with liberty for the defendants to move its dissolution the following day, when Mlle. Wagner's first appearance at the Royal Italian Opera had been announced to take place. The motion has not yet been made.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

THE Birkenhead steamship, conveying troops from England to the Caffre war, was *Wrecked* on the night of the 25th of February, off the coast of South Africa, with a most melancholy and appalling loss of life. The vessel arrived in Simon's Bay, at the Cape, on the 24th February. She put on shore a few invalids, one officer, Mr. Freshfield, and 18 men, with a considerable number of women and children; and having shipped some horses for the troops, started for East London, near the seat of war, at six o'clock on the evening of the 25th. The weather was clear and calm, and the coast is well known; so Commander Salmond, desiring to make a quick voyage, ran closely along the shore. At two o'clock that same night, the Birkenhead ran on a reef of rocks which is well known to stretch out from Point Danger, about fifty miles from Simon's Bay: and in twenty minutes she broke into three pieces and went down, carrying hundreds with her to rise no more, and leaving hundreds to struggle for life amidst the rocks, the masses of wreck, and the sharks, with boats enough to save only a fraction of their number. The official accounts say that "438 lives of officers, seamen, soldiers, and boys, were lost, out of 630 who were on board the ship when she struck."

A clear account of the wreck and its sequel is given by Captain Wright, of the 91st Regiment, in an official report of the Commandant of Cape Town, dated the 1st of March. He says:—

"The sea was smooth at the time, and the vessel was steaming at the rate of eight and a half knots an hour. She struck the rock, and it penetrated through her bottom just aft the foremast. The rush of water was so great that there is no doubt that most of the men in the lower troop-deck were drowned in their hammocks. The rest of the men and all the officers appeared on deck; when Major Seaton called all the officers about him, and impressed on them the necessity of preserving order and silence among the men. He directed me to

take and have executed whatever orders the commander might give me. Sixty men were immediately put on to the chain-pumps on the lower aft-deck, and told off in three reliefs; sixty men were put on to the tackles of the paddle-box boats; and the remainder of the men were brought on to the poop, so as to ease the fore-part of the ship. She was at this time rolling heavily. The commander ordered the horses to be pitched out of the port-gangway, and the cutter to be got ready for the women and children, who had all been collected under the poop awning. As soon as the horses were got over side, the women and children were passed into the cutter, under charge of Mr. Richards, master's assistant; the boat then stood off about 150 yards. Just after they were out of the ship, the entire bow broke off at the foremast, the bowsprit going up in the air towards the fore topmast, and the funnel went over the side, carrying away the starboard paddle-box and boat. The paddle-box boat capsized when being lowered. The large boat in the centre of the ship could not be got at. It was about twelve or thirteen minutes after she struck that the bow broke off. The men then all went up on the poop, and in about five minutes more the vessel broke in two, crosswise, just abaft the engine-room, and the stern part immediately filled and went down. A few men jumped off before she did so, but the greater number remained to the last, and so did every officer belonging to the troops. All the men I put on the tackles, I fear, were crushed when the funnel fell; and the men and officers below at the pumps could not, I think, have reached the deck before the vessel broke up and went down. The survivors clung, some to the rigging of the mainmast, part of which was out of the water, and others got hold of floating pieces of wood. I think there must have been about 200 on the drift-wood. I was on a large piece along with five others, and we picked up nine or ten more. The swell carried the wood in the direction of Point Danger. As soon as we got to the weeds and breakers, finding that it would not support all that were on it, I jumped off and swam on shore; and when the others, and also those that were on the other pieces of wood, reached the shore, we proceeded into the country, to try and find a habitation of any sort, where we could obtain shelter. Many of the men were naked, and almost all without shoes. Owing to the country being covered with thick thorny bushes, our progress was slow; but after walking till about three p.m., having reached land about twelve, we came to where a waggon was outspanned, and the driver of it directed us to a small bay, where there is the hut of a fisherman. The bay is called Stamford's Cove. We arrived there about sunset; and as the men had nothing to eat, I went on to a farm-house, about eight or nine miles from the Cove, and sent back provisions for that day. The next morning I sent another day's provisions; and the men were removed up to a farm of Captain Smale's, about twelve or fourteen miles up the country. Lieutenant Girardot, of the 43d, and Cornet Bond, of the 12th Lancers, accompanied this party, which amounted to sixty-eight men, including eighteen sailors. I then went down to the coast; and during Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, I examined the rocks for more than twenty miles, in the hope of finding some men who might have drifted in. I fortunately fell in with the crew of a whale-boat that was employed sealing on Dyer's Island. I got them to take the boat outside the seaweed, while I went along the shore. The seaweed on the coast is very thick and of immense length, so that it would have caught most of the drift-wood. Happily, the boat picked up two men, and I also found two. Although they were all much exhausted, two of them having been in the water thirty-eight hours, they were all right the next day, except a few bruises. It was eighty-six hours on Sunday afternoon when I left the coast since the wreck had taken place; and as I had carefully examined every part of the rocks, and also sent the whale-boat over to Dyer's Island, I can safely assert that when I left there was not a living soul on the coast of those that had been on board the ill-fated Birkenhead. The order and regularity that prevailed on board, from the time the ship

struck till she totally disappeared, far exceeded anything that I thought could be effected by the best discipline; and it is the more to be wondered at, seeing that most of the soldiers had been but a short time in the service. Every one did as he was directed, and there was not a murmur nor a cry among them until the vessel made her final plunge. I could not name any individual officer who did more than another. All received their orders and carried them out, as if the men were embarking instead of going to the bottom: there was only this difference, that I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise or confusion. One fact I cannot omit mentioning. When the vessel was just about going down, the commander called out, 'All those that can swim, jump overboard and make for the boats.' Lieutenant Girardot and myself were standing on the stern part of the poop. We begged the men not to do as the Commander said, as the boat with the women must be swamped. Not more than three made the attempt."

A letter written by Cornet Bond, of the 12th Lancers, another of the survivors, contains the following striking particulars:—

"We left Simon's Bay at seven o'clock in the evening of the 24th. At two o'clock the next morning I was awoke by the vessel striking upon a rock. I immediately dressed myself and went on deck, and found all in confusion. I heard the captain give orders to back her, which I hardly think was carried into effect, as the fires were almost immediately extinguished. He then gave orders to Major Seaton to get the horses up, and throw them overboard, and I, with a sergeant and some belonging to the 12th Lancers, succeeded in doing so. I then went on the poop, where the captain was standing. He told me to go and get the women and children up; which I did by carrying up two of the latter. The others followed, and were immediately lowered into the boats. At this time the greatest order and regularity prevailed. All the officers were then employed with gangs of men at the pumps, and a number of soldiers under the command of Mr. Brodie, the master, were endeavouring to haul out the paddle-box boat on the port side, which was nearly hoisted out when the tackle broke, and it remained fixed in the air. The forepart of the ship now broke off at the foremast, and soon after she cracked in the middle, and filled with water. A great many of the men on the troop deck were drowned in their hammocks, not being able to effect an escape. All those who could succeed in reaching the poop now crowded there, and the captain sung out to those who could swim 'to make for the boats,' of which there were three, at a distance of 150 yards. They did not come nearer, for fear of being swamped. A gig on the starboard side was then ordered to be lowered, in which Mr. Rolt, of the 12th Lancers, who was unable to swim, and several seamen, were seen to enter; but, in lowering it, one of the ropes broke, and she was swamped. Poor Rolt rose, but was unable to reach the shore, and was drowned. The poop, immediately afterwards, owing to the force of the water rushing up, went down, drawing all those who were on it, as well as myself, under water. I rose to the surface almost immediately. I had one of Mackintosh's life-preservers on, which may be filled in the water, which I did. The sea at this time was covered with struggling forms, while the cries, piercing shrieks, and shoutings for the boats were awful. I swam astern, in hopes of being picked up by one of them. I hailed one sixty yards off, but could not reach it, as they pulled away, I suppose for fear of too many attempting to get in. I then turned round, and made for the shore, about two miles distant, which I finally succeeded in reaching, at a little after five a.m., by swimming only. Two men, who were swimming close to me, I saw disappear with a shriek, most probably bitten by sharks. I fortunately hit on the landing-place, but, owing to the great quantity of sea-weed I had to struggle through, and being quite exhausted, I almost failed in reaching it. I then walked up a sort of beaten track from the beach, in hopes of finding some habitation. In doing so I perceived my horse, at a short distance, standing in the water on the beach. I got him out, and then returned

to the place at which I landed, when I saw a raft, with about nine men on it, endeavouring to land, but they did not succeed in doing so until they saw me on the rocks standing opposite to the proper spot; they then steered straight for me, and finally landed at seven a.m. Lieutenant Girardot, of the 43rd Light Infantry, was one of them. At the same time two or three other men were thrown on the rocks off a spar, and landed, very much cut and bruised, and entirely naked."

After describing their arrival at Captain Smale's residence, and their kind reception there, Cornet Bond speaks of what he saw on returning to the scene of the wreck. He says:—

"On our way thither we met numbers of men who had landed. Some came ashore in the paddle-box boat, which had floated up; the one was full of water, and the other keel uppermost. One of the ship's quartermasters told me that there were seven others in the boat with him, which was full of water. They, however, all died from cold, having been many hours in the boat, and quite naked. He had his clothes on. We also met Captain Wright, 91st, who had landed on the sponson; he had been along the shore, and had picked up several men. Some rafts reached the shore with bodies lashed on them quite dead; other bodies washed up, some of them dreadfully mangled by sharks. The time from which the ship struck, to the period at which the poop sunk, and those on it were precipitated into the water, did not occupy more than twenty minutes."

Some light is thrown on the cause of this dreadful catastrophe by the dispatches received by the Board of Admiralty, from the commander, Wyvill. "It appears," says the commander, "that her Majesty's ship Birkenhead, was duly pricked off on the chart at eight o'clock on the night of the 25th, within False Bay, by the master, Mr. Brodie, and officer of the watch, Mr. Spear, second master; that the course was shaped SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E, and Cape Hlangip giving a berth of about four miles. The man at the wheel, J. Haynes, A.B., from ten to twelve o'clock of the first watch, states that he steered that course with directions not to go to the eastward of it. A leadsmen was on the paddle-box, and look-out men were placed. The night was fine, starlight, and calm, but a long swell setting in on shore. The land was seen all the night from three to four points on the port bow. At about ten minutes before two o'clock, in the middle watch, the leadsmen, Abel Stone, ordinary seaman, got soundings, in twelve or thirteen fathoms, of which he gave notice to the officer of the watch, Mr. Davis, second master. The ship was going about eight knots. Before he could get another cast of the lead the ship struck, and he found seven fathoms alongside; there were two fathoms water under the bows, and eleven by the stern. It appears that Mr. Salmond, who was roused by the shock, went on deck, inquired the time, a few minutes past two o'clock, and the course steered; it was reported to be SSE $\frac{1}{2}$ E, which he stated was quite correct. He immediately ordered the engines to be stopped, the small bower anchor to be let go, the quarter boats to be lowered and lie off alongside the ship, the paddle-box boats to be got out, and a turn astern to be given by the engines. He ordered the military officers, who were all in attendance (Major Seaton, of the 74th regiment, and Captain Wright of the 91st), to send the troops to the chain pumps; the orders were implicitly obeyed, and perfect discipline maintained. So soon as Mr. Salmond heard there was water in the ship, he directed the women and children to be put into a cutter, in charge of Mr. Richards, master's assistant, which was done. In ten minutes after the first concussion, and while the engines were turning astern, the ship struck again under the engine-room, bulging the side in several feet, and tearing open the bottom; the water rushed in, drowned the fires, and stopped the engines; the engineer, Mr. Renwick, and stokers, making their escape to the upper deck. Instantly the ship broke in two, abaft the mainmast, and sank, leaving the maintopmast and topsail yard only visible above water. Up to this awful moment the resolution and coolness of all hands were remarkable. Mr. Salmond gave his orders with much presence of mind to the last. . . . There is no doubt but the course of the ship was shaped to hug the land too closely; and, as it does

not appear that either Mr. Salmund or the master had attended on deck from ten o'clock in the first watch until the accident occurred, it would infer much inattention and extreme neglect of duty on their parts; and when soundings were first struck, had the helm been put to port, this ill-fated ship might have escaped the danger. It is much to be lamented that not an officer has been saved who can give any satisfactory information upon these points. It is also to be deeply deplored that a young officer, Mr. Richards, master's assistant, should have been the only executive in command of the boats; as, from the circumstance of their leaving the scene of the wreck before daylight, the landing-place discovered on Point Danger by those who reached the shore on rafts would have shown itself, and the hapless individuals who were clinging to pieces of wreck and spars might have been picked off, and carried to the shore by the boats, and thus many more lives would have been saved. Also, when the schooner visited the wreck, had the cutters examined the coast in the locality, it is probable they might have found a few others. I can only attribute this fatal error to want of judgment, and to the excited state of the people in the boats under such appalling circumstances."

The extent of the calamity may be seen by a comparison of the number of persons known to have been on board, with the number saved. The troops on board were drafts for the various regiments now in service on the frontier, under the charge of Major Scaton of the 74th regiment. They are thus told off:—

"2nd (Queen's) Foot—Ensign Boyland and 51 privates. 6th regiment—Ensign Mitford and 61 privates. 12th Lancers—Cornets Bond and Rolt and 6 privates. 12th regiment—Lieutenant S. Fairclough and 71 privates. 43rd Light Infantry—Lieutenant Girardot and 41 privates. 45th, attached to 12th Foot—4 privates. 69th Rifles, 2nd Battalion—41 privates, attached to 91st regiment. 73rd regiment—Lieutenants Robinson and Boot, and Ensign Lucas and 71 privates. 74th regiment—Major Scaton and Ensign Russell, and 66 privates. 91st Foot—Captain Wright and 61 privates. Staff—2 surgeons and 1 assistant-surgeon. Total—12 officers, 472 rank and file, 2 surgeons, 1 assistant-surgeon."

There were also the following women and children; the rest of those who left England having been put on shore at Simon's Bay. Women—Mrs. Darkins, Mrs. Nesbitt, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Gwichar, Mrs. Spruce, Mrs. Hudson. Children, 13. The names of the ship's officers and crew are not given in detail. Of the troops on board, and their women and children, the following were saved in the boats: Officer, 1, Mr. Bowen, staff-surgeon; soldiers, 62; marines, 3; women and children, all on board, as above named. The following got on shore by swimming, or on portions of the wreck. Officers, 4: Captain Wright, 91st regiment; Lieutenant Girardot, 43rd regiment; Ensign Lucas, 73rd regiment; Cornet Bond, 12th Lancers. Soldiers, 46. Of the ship's officers and crew, the following escaped in the boats. Officers, 4: Dr. Culhane, assistant-surgeon; Mr. Richards, master's assistant; Mr. Renwick, first class assistant-engineer; Mr. Hire, clerk. Seamen and stokers, 22. Boys, 3. The following got to shore by swimming, or on portions of the wreck. Officers, 2: Mr. Barber, assistant-engineer; Mr. Archibald, gunner. Seamen, 16. These numbers make a total of 183. But the official reports of the latest date correct the total, without giving details, by stating, as we have said at the outset, that more than 438 out of 630 were lost; leaving the number of those saved at 192. Thus, it would appear, eleven more have been saved than are accounted for in the details.

A letter from Lieutenant Girardot, of the 43rd Light Infantry, one of those who escaped from the wreck, to his father in England, has the following remarkable passage:—

"I remained on the wreck until she went down: the suction took me down some way, and a man got hold of my leg; but I managed to kick him off and come up, and struck off for some pieces of wood that were on the water, and started for land, which was about two miles off. I was in the water about five hours; as the shore was so rocky, and the surf ran so high, a great many

were lost trying to land. Nearly all those that took to the water without their clothes on were taken by sharks; hundreds of them were all round us, and I saw men taken by them quite close to me; but as I was dressed (having on a flannel shirt and trousers) they preferred the others. I was not in the least hurt, and am happy to say kept my head clear. Most of the officers lost their lives by losing their presence of mind, and trying to take money with them, and from not throwing off their coats."

A terrible *Shipwreck* has taken place off the coast of Portugal. The Porto steamer sailed from Oporto for Lisbon on the 28th of March, with thirty-nine passengers and a crew of twenty-two men. Off Cape Mondego a furious gale came on to blow from the east, and the ship was put about, to run for Oporto or Vigo. Early in the morning of the 29th, she arrived off the entrance of the Douro; and in attempting to cross the bar, she struck upon the Toiro rock, only twenty fathoms distant from the shore; while the sea was rising rapidly, and the beach was already crowded with the families and friends of those on board. A pilot-boat was at once launched, and got near enough to receive a rope thrown from on board, one end of which it was intended to convey on shore, in a direction clear of the sunken rocks which lay between the boat and the ship. If this could have been done, no doubt many, if not all, would have been enabled to escape by means of it; but, unfortunately, the people in the vessel lost all presence of mind, and, persisting in their attempts to haul the boat alongside, the pilot was obliged to let go the rope; and though he made every endeavour to get near enough to have it thrown to him again, he never succeeded in doing so, and at last had to give it up altogether. An eye-witness thus describes the catastrophe:—"Meanwhile, the sea had got up, and was rolling in tremendous waves, which at last lifted the fated vessel and carried her towards the Forçado rock, some thirty yards further off, upon which she struck violently, and the water rushing in, extinguished the fires. The agonising shrieks of those on board now became incessant, for every hope had seemed to vanish. Many were on their knees praying aloud for mercy, while others ran wildly about, in a state of frenzy. The French consul at Oporto, M. Destrees, was seen standing upon the paddle-box, stripped to his shirt and drawers, and calling out to Manoel Francisco, the pilot, to come to his succour. Mr. Joseph Allen, another passenger, stood on the quarter-deck, with his two young daughters clinging to him. The spectators of this fearful vision, for such it almost seemed to be, did all they could to urge the pilots to venture out again. Baron Massarellos, on behalf of the wife, now the widow of Mr. Allen, offered a reward of 12,000 milreis (2600*l.*). Many other people offered large sums. Several young men, amongst them an Englishman of the name of Brown, and two or three English sailors, volunteered to row, if some pilot would undertake to steer. But all in vain. The only answer to all entreaties was, that the attempt would only bring destruction upon those who ventured upon it. Some common sky-rockets were brought down from Oporto, and by means of these repeated attempts were made to throw a line on board the vessel, but, being of too little weight and projectile force, they were all swept away by the wind, which was blowing tremendously. At about half-past seven o'clock p. m., the vessel parted right amidships; and the passengers, the whole of whom were clustered in the after part, fell into the sea. The effect produced by the sudden ceasing of the loud yell they raised was most horrifying. Of the crew, who were forward, all but three now tried to swim on shore, but only eight of them succeeded in the attempt. In the course of another half-hour no portion of the wreck was visible, and all was silence. About two o'clock in the morning, however, one of the three men who had clung to a portion of the bows—the only part of the vessel which, though unscathed from the shore, had remained above water—swam to the land. The other two had perished. Among the passengers who perished, besides Mr. Allen, were two Englishmen—a Mr. James Anderson, and his nephew, Mr. Elmsley." A poor orange-woman was killed by accident at Somers'-town on Sunday morning, the 11th. A recent regulation of the authorities of that district prohibits

any person vending fruit or other articles in the streets after a certain time in the morning. On Sunday morning the police, in enforcing the regulation, gave chase to the poor woman, who was selling oranges. In endeavouring to escape with her stock in trade, she attempted to cross the New-road, when she was knocked down by a cab horse. The wheel of the vehicle passed over her head, causing such severe injuries that she died almost instantly.

A *Frightful Accident* has taken place at Ravensdale corn-mill, in Cumberland. Young Mr. Anthony Dawson was left alone in the mill by his father at half-past three o'clock in the morning. While in the act of placing the belt upon one of the wheels to set more machinery to work, he was caught by the axle, and wound up by his clothes, and crushed in the most shocking manner. Some idea may be formed of the sufferings of the unfortunate man, and the awful pressure upon him, from the fact that his body, thus entangled, stopped all the power and machinery of the mill, and that he was held in that painful position upwards of four hours. The accident was not discovered till eight o'clock, when the sufferer was released. Two surgeons were immediately in attendance, but could render him no assistance, and he only lingered until one o'clock. He was quite sensible all the time, and gave a full account of the accident.

Shrivernham House, in Wilts, the property of Viscount Barrington, has been completely *Destroyed by a Fire*, which appears to have originated in the kitchen chimney. The building burst into flames when the doors were opened in the morning. The house was occupied by Mr. Pole: part of the contents were saved.

A serious *Railway Accident* occurred on the night of the 10th instant, on the branch of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line, from New Holland to the market town of Barton. A new engine was drawing the 5 o'clock train, and had, with one stoppage, brought it in safety the three and a half miles to Barton; but on arriving there, the driver and guard were unable to make their breaks act efficiently, and the engine went at the rate of twelve or fourteen miles an hour through a thick wall at the end of the line into the station house, the internal fittings being completely smashed. Mr. Taylor, the station master, was writing at his desk at the time, and had a very narrow escape. Hearing the loud shouts of the people outside, he ran out, and had not been gone a second, when the buffers of the engine smashed the counter he was sitting at into splinters. The engine driver, Vince, and the stoker, saved themselves by leaping on to the platform when they found the train could not be stopped. The former went back to New Holland, gave information of the accident, and has not been heard of since. Several of the passengers were injured. Mrs. Morley, of Hull, was most severely cut and bruised about the legs, and several others are now under medical treatment for the injuries received. The train consisted of five carriages and a luggage van, and it is singular that the persons who were riding in the carriage immediately behind the engine, which was, so to speak, "doubled up" by the concussion, escaped without the slightest injury, while those who were hurt were travelling in the last carriage of the train.

On the 15th inst., at the village of Kenton, near Dumbarton, *Seven Children Perished in a Fire*, which destroyed two houses. About six o'clock in the evening smoke was seen issuing from the window of a garret in the front tenement occupied by a person named Loy, in which his two sons with five other children had been amusing themselves in the afternoon during his absence at work at Dumbarton, where he is employed as a labourer. The flames spread with such fearful rapidity that in a few minutes the roof was beyond recovery, and in a short time the fire had communicated with, and taken effect upon, the thatch of the adjacent dwelling-house. The villagers were ignorant of the imminent danger of the occupants of the garret, for no attempt was made to rescue them from the flames. There is too much reason to fear, however, that the dense smoke which filled the apartment had suffocated the ill-fated children at an early period of the evening, and that they were thus prevented from continuing their calls for assistance. Several men attempted to effect an entrance, first by the door and then by a window; but they were

baffled by the intensity of the heat. Almost immediately afterwards the roof fell in with a tremendous crash, burying the seven children. The origin of the fire has not been discovered.

A boy ten years old *Drowned Himself* in Derby on the 14th inst., from mortification at his mother having discovered that he stole sixpence.

An explosion of *Fire-damp* took place on the evening of the 23rd, in a colliery at Pemberton, near Wigan, by which ten persons were killed, and six others so much injured that their lives were despaired of. An inquest on the bodies has commenced.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

A DEPUTATION from the *Metropolitan Sanitary Association*—very numerous, and headed by the Bishop of London—has been received by Lord Derby, and assured by him, that, "short as the session would be, the government was in hopes of doing something towards settling the important question of *Intramural Burial* before the separation of Parliament."

Very important discoveries of first-rate *Iron-Stone* have been recently made in the oolite district, near Thirsk, amongst which are the beds known as the Cleveland and the Northampton. There is a great variety of ores, the iron being found in combination with the lime and sandstone as well as the clay of the geological formation.

The first triennial visitation of the *Queen's College at Belfast* was held on the 5th instant, by the visitors, the Duke of Leinster, Lord Chancellor Brady, Judge Green, the Bishop of Down and Connor, and Dr. Coulter, moderator of the General Assembly, in the presence of a great and distinguished company. The students were eleven more than last year; and the matriculation-fee was 143*l.*; they had been 132*0*l.** last year, and 124*2*l.** the year before. The Duke of Leinster, on behalf of the visitors, said that, everything they saw gave them the highest gratification.

The seventh anniversary festival of the *General Theatrical Fund* took place on the 5th instant, at the London Tavern, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, who occupied the chair, congratulated the meeting on the success which had attended their efforts, and attributed that success to the recognition of two principles, on which every society which had for its object the benefit of the professors of any art ought to be founded. The first of these was the principle that every such society ought to embrace the objects of a mutual benefit association; and the second was, the recognition of the fact that art was something imperishable and universal, and was not confined to any particular buildings of brick and mortar in which it might be exercised. The peculiar feature and merit of the association the members and friends of which he was addressing was, that they recognised these principles, that they had nothing to do with associations connected with certain buildings, endowed with exclusive patents and privileges it was true, but from which the drama had long gone forth. The General Theatrical Fund was established not for the benefit of a professional party, but for the professors of an art, and the society must therefore endure because it had attached itself to two things which would endure after the Pyramids were dust—art and misfortune. Mr. Buckstone, the honorary treasurer, adverted to the balance in hand, and announced a prospective legacy from Mr. T. P. Cooke, of 100*0*l.** Among the subscriptions announced were, the Queen's annual donation of 100*l.*; Sir Edward B. Lytton, 10*l.*; the Duke of Devonshire, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Earl Fitzhardinge, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Dr. Hastings, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Webster, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Montague, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Lumley, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. C. Kean, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Phelps, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mrs. Theodore Martin (late Miss H. Faucett), 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. Toole, 3*l.* 3*s.*; Madame Celeste, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Mr. T. P. Cooke, 3*l.* 3*s.*; and a number of others, from members of the profession.

The centenary commemoration of the founding of *King Edward's School at Birmingham* was observed, on

the 16th instant; the Bishops of Worcester and Manchester, Lord Calthorpe, and some members of the House of Commons, sharing in the proceedings. The whole debt owing by the institution three years ago—98,000*l.*—has been paid off; the yearly revenue is 10,000*l.*; and the scholars are 1460,—a noble instance of what may be done for our great public seminaries by sound and judicious administration.

A statement has been published, showing the *Immense Increase in the Consumption of Sugar in this country*. This increase is steady and continuous. In 1844, the last year of the old system, the consumption of sugar was 207,000 tons. In 1851, its consumption had increased to 330,000 tons; and there has been a positive increase in the last month, as compared with the corresponding month in the previous year, of more than 5000 tons. In the short space of eight years we thus see an increase of more than one-half, or upwards of fifty per cent.

The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of the *Lambeth Ragged Schools* was held on the 23rd, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The report was gratifying. The Sunday evening schools progress favourably; they are under the care of thirty teachers, and are attended by 509 children, of which 260 are boys, and 249 girls. Both the infant day schools and the week evening schools are in a prosperous condition, and the improvement is so manifest in the children as to call forth expressions of gratitude from their parents. The former of these is attended by 255 boys and 137 girls, and the latter school by 80 boys and 115 girls, making in all 1096 children who are in the receipt of a sound religious and moral instruction. The ladies' committee have provided eleven girls with good situations, and assisted them with suitable clothing. The financial statement showed the receipts for the past year, including subscriptions and donations 145*l.* 16*s.*, to have been 238*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, while the expenditure for the same period amounted to 345*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, thus leaving a sum of 106*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* due to the treasurer.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

HER MAJESTY held an investiture of the *Order of the Bath*, at Buckingham Palace, on the 22nd. Lord Broughton was invested with the riband and badge of a Civil Knight Grand Cross; General Sir Peregrine Maitland, Admiral Sir Thomas Capel, and Lieutenant-Generals Sir Alexander Woodford, Sir Henry Frederick Bouvier, and Sir John Fox Burgoyne, were invested with the insignia of Military Knights Grand Cross; Major-General Sir John Owen, Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Downman, Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Maitland, Lieutenant-Generals Sir Archibald MacLaine, George Charles D'Aguilar, Henry Goldfinch, John Bell and George Brown, and Rear-Admirals Phipps, Hornby and William Farebrother Carroll, were invested as Military Knights-Commander.

The successor of Prince Schwartzberg as Prime Minister of Austria, is Count Buol Schauenstein, who has been for some months the Austrian Minister in London.

The Earl of Mansfield is appointed to be her Majesty's High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Queen and Prince Albert have authorised their names to be put at the head of a subscription-list for the sufferers by the loss of the Birkenhead; and the members of the Cabinet have also subscribed.

Professor Wilson has resigned his Chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. In his letter of resignation, addressed to the Magistrates and Council of Edinburgh, he adverts to his declining health, which he had hoped would have been sufficiently restored to enable him to resume his duties; but, he says, as the year advances, these hopes decay, and he feels that it is now his duty to resign the chair which he has occupied so many years. The communication was received with expressions of deep regret.

Mr. Feargus O'Connor has suddenly left London, and embarked at Liverpool for the United States. The

object of his flight is said to be, to avoid the commission of lunacy which has been issued against him.

Thomas Meagher, the Irish political convict, has escaped from Van Diemen's Land. He had previously given notice that he would not renew his parole.

Considerable excitement has been produced by an account of *Two Ships having been seen Imbedded in an Iceberg* about twelve months ago, which are supposed to have been Sir John Franklin's vessels, the *Erebus* and *Terror*. A correspondence published by the Admiralty contains a statement by Mr. Simpson, mate of a brig called the *Renovation*, then on a voyage from Limerick to Quebec. Mr. Simpson says:—

"On the 20th of April 1851, at six A.M., I saw two full-rigged ships (one about 500 tons, the other 350) on an iceberg, high and dry, the larger one on her beam-ends, head to the westward, three ships' lower masts only standing with bowsprit, masts painted white, apparently not housed over; the smaller one was about 350 tons, head to the south, with lower and topsails yards across, sails unbent, topmost on end, yards very square and black, not housed over, nearly upright: both vessels apparently abandoned."

Mr. Simpson added, that the master, Captain Coward, was very sick in bed; and when Mr. Simpson called him, and stated that two vessels were in sight on an iceberg, he was too unwell to take any notice, and answered "Very well;" Mr. Simpson therefore did not like to take the responsibility of bearing up to examine the vessels. He also states that the iceberg and the vessels were seen by Mr. Lynch, a passenger, and the other mates. But the fact of the vessels having been seen, and the inference that they were Sir John Franklin's, have been called in question. Mr. Simpson's statement, it seems, does not correspond with statements made by Coward, the master, that he himself was upon deck and saw the vessels, but did not at the time think of Franklin's missing ships. Further inquiries are going on by order of the Admiralty. Captain Ommanney has been to Limerick, and personally examined Mr. Robert Simpson, the late mate of the *Renovation*. No new facts are brought out, but the former statement is made more exact; and the official report of Captain Ommanney shows that he believes the statements of Simpson, and is inclined to think the ships seen may have been those of the lost expedition.

The new expedition to search after Sir John Franklin,—consisting of the steam-ships *Intrepid* and *Pioneer*, and the ships *Resolute* and *Assistance*, under Captain Sir Edward Belcher,—started from Woolwich on Thursday, on their voyage to the Arctic regions. They have among their apparatus charges of gunpowder in copper tubes, for blasting the Arctic ice, when it may be important to save time by hastening the break-up of detaining masses; harpoon-guns, for striking large cetacea at a distance; and Minié rifles for bringing down deer at four times the present range of Arctic fire-arms.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

THE DOWAGER QUEEN OF DENMARK, SOPHIA FREDERICA, widow of Frederick VI., and daughter of the late Landgrave Charles of Hesse Cassel, died at Copenhagen on the 21st ult., in her eighty-sixth year.

SIR JOHN SHELLEY, BART., died suddenly on the 28th ult., at Lonsdale House, Fulham, in the eighty-first year of his age.

HER SERENE HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS IDA OF SAXE WEIMAR, mother of his SERENE HIGHNESS Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar, and sister of the late Queen Dowager of England, died very suddenly on the 3rd inst. at Weimar, in the fifty-eighth year of her age.

PRINCE FELIX SCHWARTZENBERG, the Austrian Prime Minister, died suddenly of apoplexy at Vienna, on the 5th inst. He was born on the 2nd of October, 1800, and was consequently in the fifty-second year of his age.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B., Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia, died at the Government House, Halifax, on the morning of the 22nd ult., in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

LORD DYMCKE, who had been for some time an invalid, died at his seat, Barrington Park, Oxfordshire, on the 9th inst., in his eighty-seventh year.

LORD DUNSMUNY, one of the representative Irish peers, died on the 7th inst. at Dunsmun Castle.

LORD PARNMURE died at Brechin Castle, on the 13th inst., at

the age of eighty-two. By his death Mr. Fox Maule will succeed to his title and great estates.

MR. FRANK FORSTER, recently the engineer to the Metropolis Commissioners of Sewers, died suddenly on the 13th inst. He was in the act of writing a letter when he was struck with apoplexy, and almost immediately expired.

MARSHAL GERARD, the Senior Field Marshal of France, died at Paris on the 17th inst., in his eightieth year.

PRINCE PAUL OF WURTEMBERG, brother of the reigning King of Wurtemberg, brother-in-law of Jérôme Bonaparte, and uncle of the President of the French Republic, died in Paris on the 16th. On the day before, when the Prince was supposed to be dying, the Papal nuncio, to the surprise of everybody, entered

the chamber of the hotel where the nearest friends and relations of the deceased, whose family is Protestant, were gathered. Madame de Montessuy, the Prince's natural daughter, then announced to the company that the Prince had abjured Protestantism and embraced the Roman Catholic religion. A very painful impression was caused by this sudden disclosure, and the members of the family of Nassau protested energetically against the clandestine abjuration snatched from the Prince in a moment when he was in the grasp of death, and stated, which was the fact, that the Prince had not for the last fortnight been in a fit state of mind to take so important a step. They remained, however, in the room till the Prince died. The nuncio administered the sacraments and then withdrew.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE *Overland Mail* has brought dates from Bombay to the 15th of March. The expedition against the Burmese was to start from Madras for Rangoon between the 15th and 20th of March.

The Calcutta papers state that intelligence has been received of the accidental smothering of 50 coolies out of a cargo of 234 in the hold of the Futtay Salem, during a hurricane off Madras, on the 22nd-25th December. The hatches had been battered down, and cries for relief were unheard during the fury of the storm. On the 2nd March, Calcutta was visited by the first nor-wester of the season—a furious storm of wind, thunder, hail, and rain. The electric fluid passed in large quantities along the wires of the telegraph, detonating in loud explosions at the stations; but beyond a little interrupting the communication, and endangering the attendants, it did no harm.

There was a great earthquake in Goozerat, Cutchee, and Upper Scinde, on the 24th of January. In Cutchee the fatality was great. The following description is given:—"At Khangur, at 3.45 A.M., three smart shocks of an earthquake, following each other in rapid succession, were felt. The direction was from west to east, and the time occupied in all amounted to about 45 seconds. There it was attended with no danger to any of the houses; but in the Murree hills its effects have been very severe, and attended with great loss of life and property. Accurate accounts, which have now been received, state the number of killed belonging to the Murree tribe to amount to 340 individuals, and, as yet, an unknown quantity of cattle and other animals. The majority of the houses, and the greater portion of the walls of their capital (Kahun) fell, burying men, women, and children in the ruins; and in a large cave, a little to the north, which was inhabited by a number of families, the sides also fell in, and almost all perished. The city is now totally deserted; and so great is the terror prevalent amongst them, that they are said to be anxious to remove from the hills altogether. The effects of the shock were such, that large masses have fallen from the mountains, and the Nuffosk Pass, leading to Kahan, has become blocked up. Amidst such havoc and desolation, the only advantage which has accrued is, that the river Lheree, which, unless rain falls, is lost immediately before its exit point from the hills, has suddenly extended many miles further than usual at this season. It is now flowing past the town of Lheree, and the inhabitants are busy cultivating from it; for there, as in all the alluvial soils of this country, the rule holds good, as the supply of water, so are the capabilities for growth."

There are accounts from *Port Philip* to the 21st of January, brought by the ship *Brilliant*, which arrived on the 22nd, having on board about two tons and a half of gold, valued at 217,000*l*. The day the *Brilliant* left *Port Philip*, twenty-one vessels were entering the harbour, most of them freighted with emigrants from the adjoining colonies. New diggings had been discovered at the Muddy Creek and the Hume River, promising as fertile a field as the most productive spots. The "*Melbourne Argus*" of the 17th of January states that up to the 20th of December, 163,414 ounces of gold had arrived at Melbourne and Geelong, and 80,000 ounces still remain in the hands of the diggers, making the total yield up to that date 243,414 ounces, worth 730,242*l*.

Advices from *Jamaica* to the 2nd of March, state that the island Legislature was prorogued by Governor Grey on the 26th of February. The governor had disallowed the loan bills passed by the two Chambers; and he stated that he had received from the Colonial Office a dispatch approving of his intention to withhold his consent. In his speech on proroguing the Chambers, he said, "The drooping and decaying position of the planting interest, is still the most prominent object in the affairs of Jamaica." Maintaining the principle, that the compensation given by the mother-country from the resources of her whole community to relieve any portion of it which may suffer by the introduction of improved institutions, should be *adequate*, but stating that "it is notorious and certain that the relief of the planting interest has neither been complete nor even proportionate to the effort and sacrifice which were made for the purpose of affording it," he hinted his own notion that relief might still be rendered in a manner that should be advantageous both to England and Jamaica:—

"It would be a source of great and lasting joy to me if I could in any degree be instrumental in advancing this fine island and its inhabitants to the state of prosperity of which I think they are capable, and still more if this were to be effected by measures which might serve as a basis for that union of England with her colonies, which is all that is wanting to make the British empire an example to be followed by the whole world."

The question of sending delegates to England to represent the state of the colony was agitated: subscriptions had been raised, and three persons had been chosen for the mission. These persons were Messrs. Thompson, Girod, and W. Smith; but after they were chosen, three other gentlemen were added to them, Messrs. Jackson, Franklin, and Vickers. The last was a man of colour, and the three delegates first chosen declined to accept him as a colleague, on the ground that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the history of the colony to enable him to act; they said they would act with any man of colour properly qualified by education and knowledge.

The *West India Mail* brings dates to the end of March. There is no intelligence of importance. In British Guiana a favourable account is given of the sugar crop. There is every prospect of the present crop being larger than even that of last year, which again was an improvement on the crop of 1850. The yellow fever was prevalent at Demerara. At Antigua, the weather continued distressingly dry. The young canes were burned up, and the older ones were suffering sadly. The manufacture of the present crop was progressing rapidly; but in many instances the yield of the canes was far below the expectations formed of them. At Barbadoes the weather had not been very favourable for reaping, the principal operation of the month. The old cane crop continued to yield well, and to give sugar of an excellent quality. The young cane crop was clean, manured, and partially trashed.

Intelligence from the *Cape of Good Hope* has been received to the 3rd of March, no military operations of consequence had taken place during the preceding month. General Somerset's and Colonel Eyre's patrols were yet

in Caffreland, destroying the enemy's crops and devastating their country. No submissions had been made by Kreili, Sandilli, Macomo, or the other great chiefs; but there were renewed attempts to treat, and to obtain peace on terms short of such absolute submission. These advances were all sternly rejected, and the patrolling expeditions were to be kept up with relentless vigour till the cattle of the enemy should be all taken, their crops destroyed, and their ammunition gone. These events, or the unconditional surrender of the chiefs, were thought to be now somewhat nearer realisation than before.

The Legislative Council had given cause for fresh disgust. At a meeting on the 11th February, yet one more attempt was made to put off proceeding with the debate on the Constitution Ordinances. There was one more adjournment, on pretence that Mr. Secretary Montague might consult the governor-general whether there should be any further delay. The governor-general answered him with a short message to "go on immediately." So the colonists now rather hope for real progress.

Accounts are brought from the *Gold Region of Australia* down to the end of December. The discoveries near Melbourne are outstripping those made in the Bathurst district; and the distance of the new happy land from Melbourne being but two day's walk, an enormous population had gone out from that city. The diggers were said to be twenty thousand, and their gains had been enormous. Statements, apparently prepared with care, show that the average profit was five dollars a day. The government escort had brought down more than a ton of gold in one week.

The same arrivals bring letters which clear up the mystery about the fate of Mr. Benjamin Boyd. Mr. Boyd was murdered by the savages of the Solomon Islands, on the 15th of October last. He had gone on shore with his fowling-piece; two shots were heard—fired, it is supposed, by Mr. Boyd in self-defence; and he was never seen again. The small crew had great difficulty in defending themselves from a similar fate at the hands of two hundred warriors who attacked them.

The journals from *British Guiana* extend to the 27th of February. Governor Barkly had stated, in a financial address to the Combined Court, that the ordinary revenue for the last year considerably exceeded the expenditure of the colony, notwithstanding the extensive reductions in the tariff sanctioned last year. The ship *Soubahdar* had arrived from Calcutta with 600 Coolies, and it was understood that eleven ships had been engaged to continue the supply; so that some 3000 were expected during the season.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

A COMMITTEE has been formed in London, in connexion with others in Scotland, for the purpose of promoting *Emigration from the Island of Skye*. For six years the cry of famine has been raised in the western highlands and islands, and this it is proposed to relieve by the

removal of the surplus population. We are told that 400 families, or 2000 individuals, seeing no other prospect of escape from misery, are desirous of emigrating to Australia. It is proposed to aid them by small advances to cover the expense of conveyance to the port of embarkation, and to provide the clothing required under the rules laid down by the Emigration Commissioners. The sums so advanced are to be repaid by the emigrants themselves within a specified time, and when recovered will be employed in making advances to other needy persons. England is appealed to for assistance in aid of local resources; and if the appeal is responded to, whole families will be removed to a sphere of industry and comfort from one of illness and want.

Another party of *Female Emigrants*, fifty in number, making a total of about 850, who have been sent out by the Female Emigration Fund, sailed on the 11th inst., from Gravesend, on board the *Tartar* for Sydney. The whole party were exceedingly respectable and well-conducted young women.

Upwards of 250 men, women, and children, have left Penrith for Liverpool, on their way to the government gold mines of Bathurst, in Australia. Married men had the privilege of having voyage expenses defrayed for themselves, their wives, and two children each. When landed the men would receive a monthly wage of 6l.

At a public meeting of the friends of the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel*, held on the 16th, Mr. Gladstone, M.P., made the following observations on the subject of Emigration:—Not only was emigration on the increase, but many of the best members of society were becoming members of our colonial communities. The consequence of this was, that they were forming a multitude of states in various portions of the globe, every one of which would probably grow up in time to a great empire. It might be true that there was less romance in sending the Gospel to the colonies than to heathen lands. He did not desire to speak to the disparagement of those who had given an undue prominence to missions to the heathen. The best plan to operate upon the heathen was through our own country men in the colonies; and if they were well taught, the rest would follow. What they wanted was, to carry to the heathen not abstract doctrine, but sound practice and a new social existence.

The *British Ladies' Female Emigrant Society* had its annual meeting on the 23rd, the Earl of Harrowby in the chair. From the report, it appeared that the object of the society was "not to promote emigration, but to elevate and purify its character, and to give to the emigrants those means of employment and instruction by which they may improve the leisure of a long voyage, and be trained in such habits of industry and self-discipline, as would tend to make the emigrant a better colonist. The number of ships visited during the past year are as follows: 54 government ships, carrying 14,050 emigrants; 70 private ships from London, (about) 17,500 emigrants; 27 private ships from Bristol, (about) 5400 emigrants; 6 ships of the Female Emigration Fund, carrying 244. Total—157 ships; probable number of emigrants, 37,194. Farewell services had been held on board 23 ships, and the society's gifts of books and work had been distributed when practicable. The accounts, however, showed an excess of expenditure over receipts of 135*l.*, requiring exertions to be made to improve the finances of the society.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE swearing in of the *French Senate and Legislative Body* took place at the Tuileries, on the 29th of March. The ceremony was rendered as pompous as possible. The senators and deputies had assembled in the apartment known as the *Galerie Louis Philippe*. At a quarter to one, the chief usher summoned them in a loud voice to enter the *Salle des Marechaux*, and, in a few minutes, the entire hall was filled. The clatter of fire-arms on the pavement of the square outside was heard along the whole

line; the words of command hastily issued by the commanding-officers, and the drums beating to arms, then announced the near approach of the President. A movement was observed at the end of the hall by which he was to enter, and, in an instant, the hurried throwing back of the velvet drapery, and the simultaneous rising of all in the saloon, announced his presence. M. Bonaparte advanced, bowing on both sides, towards the presidential throne. He wore the costume of lieutenant-

general in the army, with the usual cordon and star of the Legion of Honour. He was accompanied by his uncle Jerome to the *fauteuil*. Taking his seat under a crimson canopy, surmounted by a large golden eagle with outspread wings, he bade his courtiers, and the members of the legislative bodies, "be seated." The Minister of State announced that the President would proclaim the opening of the Chambers in an address. The President then read his speech. He declared that the Dictatorship, entrusted to him by the people, ceased from that day; that the French nation had, for the first time, given to the world the imposing spectacle of a great people voting, "in perfect liberty" the form of its government; and that he himself, the Chief of the State, whom they had before them, was truly the expression of the popular will. He denied the imputation that he had desired to re-establish the Empire. If such had been his desire, neither means nor opportunities had been wanting. He threw out an intimation, nevertheless, that such a thing might be, if he were driven to it by necessity. "Whence," he said, "can such a necessity arise? Solely from the conduct of parties. If they resign themselves, nothing shall be changed; but if, by their underhand intrigues, they endeavour to sap the bases of my government—if, in their blindness, they contest the legitimacy of the popular election—if, finally, they endanger, by their incessant attacks, the future prospects of the country—then, and only then, it may be reasonable to demand from the people, in the name of the repose of France, a new title which will irrevocably fix upon my head the power with which they invested me. But let us not pre-occupy ourselves with difficulties, which, no doubt, have no probability. Let us maintain the Republic. It menaces nobody, and may reassure everybody. Under its banner I wish to inaugurate anew an era of oblivion and conciliation; and I call, without distinction, on all those who wish to coöperate with me in forwarding the public good. Providence, which has hitherto so visibly blessed my exertions, will not leave its work unfinished. It will animate us with its inspirations, and give us the wisdom and power necessary to consolidate an order of things which will insure the happiness of our country and the repose of Europe." After the President's speech, the ceremony of calling over the roll and swearing-in was gone through, first with the Senators, then with the Deputies. The aged Jerome, dressed in uniform, slowly rose from his *fauteuil* at the right hand of the President, turned towards his nephew, held out his arm, and repeated slowly and emphatically, "Je jure!" The public had been surprised only a few days before at seeing the name of the Archbishop of Paris, Monsignor Sibour, added to the list of the Senators: his turn was now awaited with curiosity, owing to his presumed political tendencies, and his friendly relations with General Cavaignac; but he rose in answer to his name, and repeated, in the same low tone as his confrères, "Je jure!" In the list of the Deputies, when the names of Carnot, Cavaignac, and Renon, were called, there was no response, but a breathless and solemn silence. These deputies, who had been elected by Paris and Lyons, afterwards sent disclaimers of the functions committed to them. The scene being finished, the President departed, and the throng dispersed.

The regular tellings of both Chambers commenced on the following day. Some of the reporters of the Parisian and foreign press requested admission, but were refused. On the 1st instant, the Senate voted the President a dotation of twelve million of francs a-year; in addition to which, the Senate have made over to him the Palaces of the Tuileries, Louvre, Fontainebleau, Compiègne, Versailles, Trianon, St. Cloud, Meudon, the Elysée, and the Palace of Pau, together with the forests depending upon them, the expense of keeping them up being defrayed by the State.

The chief judges took the oaths to the Constitution and the President on Sunday, the 4th. In answer to some adulatory speeches, the President asserted the legitimacy of his government, and his imperial pretensions, as founded on the national will. "Since the day," he said, "on which the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people replaced that of divine right, it may be affirmed with truth that no government has been as

legitimate as mine. In 1804, 4,000,000 of votes, in proclaiming the power to be hereditary in my family, designated me as heir to the empire. In 1848, nearly 6,000,000 called me to the head of the Republic. In 1851, nearly 8,000,000 maintained me there. Consequently, in taking the oath to me, it is not merely to a man that you swear to be faithful, but to a principle, to a cause, to the national will itself."

The "Moniteur" has published a decree for regulating the copper coinage. All the existing coin is to be withdrawn, and a new coinage issued composed of 95 per cent. of copper, 4 per cent. of tin, and 1 per cent. of zinc. An elaborate report justifies the depreciation of the coin below its nominal value.

The French Government has granted 50,000 francs for a monument to Marshal Ney.

The President has summarily dismissed M. Michelet, M. Quinet, and M. Mickiewicz, from their professorships in the University of Paris.

The Minister of Public Instruction has enjoined all the rectors and professors of schools and colleges to shave off every portion of their beards and moustaches, that they might not be confused with agitators and enemies of society; and has also directed the same functionaries to enjoin on professors of every grade "the greatest decorum in manner and decency in dress."

The estates of Neuilly and Monceaux, formerly belonging to the Orleans family, and confiscated to the state by the decree of January 22, have been taken possession of by the agents of the usurpation.

The Civil Tribunal, on the 25rd, gave judgment on the demand made by the Princes of the Orleans family to declare illegal the seizure by the Prefect of the Seine, of the estates of Neuilly and Monceaux, under the decree of the 22nd of January relative to the property of the late king Louis Philippe. In answer to this demand, the Prefect of the Seine, in the name of the government, called on the tribunal to declare that the decree of 22nd January was a legislative act, and the seizure of the property an administrative act, and that consequently the tribunal had no jurisdiction. The case was pleaded at great length; and the court pronounced a judgment declaring itself competent, keeping the case before it, fixing a day for discussing it on its merits, and condemning the Prefect in costs.

The imperial projects of the French President have been the subject of a correspondence between Austria on the one hand, and Russia and Prussia on the other. Its substance is this. Prince Schwartzberg, in a communication to these powers, expressed his belief that Prince Louis Napoleon was decided to assume the imperial throne, and his opinion that, if such a change could be accomplished in the constitution of France, the cabinets of Europe would do well not to raise any obstacle, but, on the contrary, to remove all difficulties that lie in the way. In their answers, the Russian and Prussian cabinets concur in saying, that the accomplishment of the project referred to "would be a violation of the treaties of 1814 and 1815, inasmuch as those treaties have excluded for ever the family of Bonaparte from the government of France. Now, those treaties form the basis of the whole policy of Europe; and it is the duty of the powers to demand that they shall be respected by the President of the Republic himself in all their provisions, and particularly not to permit any infraction of them as to the point in question, which has reference to him personally. Nevertheless, the sovereigns of Prussia and Russia would not perhaps be disposed to refuse to recognise Louis Napoleon Bonaparte as Emperor of the French Republic—if that title were conferred on him by a new plebiscite—as had been spoken of; but they should only recognise him as an elective Emperor, and for life, with consequently a status analogous to that of the former kings of Poland. If the two cabinets of St. Petersburg and Berlin consented to such a recognition, it was the utmost that it was possible to do; but, most certainly, beyond that point they should never go. At the same time, the cabinets formally declare, that they would only recognise the Emperor of the French Republic on the condition of his election being the result of the mode already announced (the plebiscite). They will not admit any other manner of re-establishing in France an imperial throne, even were it but for life;

the two sovereigns being firmly resolved never to accept, in the person of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, any other than a supreme elective chief of the Republic, and to oppose by all the means in their power the pretension of establishing the actual President of the French Republic as Emperor in the sense of an hereditary transmitter or founder of a Napoleonic dynasty. They add, that Louis Napoleon Bonaparte not being the issue of a sovereign or reigning family, cannot become a real sovereign, or assimilate himself to reigning houses."

Intelligence from *New York* reaches the 10th inst. The political news is unimportant. The steamer *Saluda*, bound for Council Bluffs, exploded her boilers at Lexington, on Monday, April 9. She had on board, besides other passengers, a large number of Mormon emigrants. All the officers of the boat were killed, except the first clerk and mate. About 100 lives are supposed to have been lost. The navigation of Lake Erie is still suspended in the vicinity of Erie, and a large number of emigrants, who have been for a long

time prevented from going beyond that point, are reported to be suffering dreadfully for want of the necessities of life. Several vessels are still ice-bound, and in a very dangerous situation, on the lake, off Erie. A sanguinary riot took place on the 5th inst., at the election in St. Louis. A few Germans took offence at some cause not stated, and fired with guns, from one of the houses in the vicinity, upon a crowd at one of the polls. The latter became infuriated, and tore down the house. The alarm soon spread, and a mob was speedily collected, who were also fired upon from the windows of three or four other houses, which in their turn were demolished. A large number of persons were either killed or wounded during the *melee*. Fortunately, the larger portion of the great German population of St. Louis are intelligent, and generally well educated. They do not seem to have mixed in this murderous onslaught, and hence the riot did not become more general. Kossuth had arrived at Charleston from Mobile. His presence there is said by the local papers to have produced no sensation.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE month in which Easter falls is not generally favourable to publication, and this year its issue of new books has been more scanty than usual. Setting aside pamphlets and new editions, our summary must be brief.

The overthrow of Rosas gives interest to an enlargement of Sir Woodbine Parish's account of *Buenos Ayres and the Provinces of the Rio de la Plata*. Mr. Fortune has described the results of a recent mission to China to obtain varieties of the tea plant, in a volume entitled *A Journey to the Tea Countries of China*, which is interesting for its notices of Chinese character and natural products, as well as for the information it affords of what progress the East India Company are really making with their tea-plantations in the Himalaya mountains. Mr. Day has given to the world two volumes on a *Five Years' Residence in the West Indies*, noticeable chiefly for the cordial abuse they pour out on every class in those islands,—gentry, doctors, divines, lawyers, whites, creoles, mulattoes, negroes,—on which latter race, in especial, Mr. Day lays all his blacking. Madame Pfeiffer, a German lady who made circuit of the world the other day, has written a volume on *Iceland, and Travels in Sweden and Norway*. Mr. Bonomi has collected into a compact and well-illustrated volume a number of such notices of the discoveries of Botta and Layard as are most applicable to the elucidation of Scripture history, under the title of *Nineveh and its Palaces*. The widow of a French physician who had emigrated to Algeria, has published a *Residence in Algeria* to show how unfit for all purposes of emigrants is that ill-managed colony; and from Mr. William Curtis, a roving American, we have a lightly-written cheerful volume called *The Wanderer in Syria*.

Four Introductory Lectures on Political Economy are a fresh contribution to that science, by Mr. Senior, which all thinkers will receive with respect. Mr. Hill Burton has selected a number of *Narratives from Criminal Trials in Scotland*, of which the design is equally to interest the general reader by their curious details, and to give employment to the more reflective and philosophical by their illustrations of history, society, and manners. An anonymous writer has made public, in a thin octavo, containing ten imaginary dialogues, to which he gives the title of *Alastor, or the New Ptolemy*, some new and startling speculations on electro-magnetism, in which he appears to think that he has found a solution for the mysteries and forces of nature, which the Newtons and the Herschels had missed. One of the commissioners under the act for the regulation of employment in mines, Mr. Tremenhore, has published *Notes on Public Subjects, made during a Tour in the United States and in Canada*, relating chiefly to education, voting, and the present con-

dition of the English North American colonies. The latter he holds to be most encouraging and satisfactory.

Mr. Peter Cunningham has related and collected, in an elegant and entertaining volume, *the Story of Nell Gwyn, and the Sayings of Charles the Second*. In two duodecimos, the *Poetical Works of David M. Moir* (the *Delta* of Blackwood's Magazine) have been collected and edited, with a brief memoir, by Mr. Aird. With the title of *The Eclipse of Faith, or a Visit to a Religious Sceptic*, we have an argument for faith in revelation under the guise of a quasi-theological fiction, of which the design appears to be to exhibit the impossibility of believing that the Scripture evidences are impossible of belief. *A Guide to English Composition* is an attempt to teach boys, what perhaps only nature and habit can be expected to teach them effectually, how to write English themes and essays.

Kossuth's late aide-de-camp, Sigismund Wekey, has published a very interesting *Grammar of the Hungarian Language*, the first that has been written in English, containing a clear and simple exposition of the structure and principles of the language, appropriate exercises, a copious vocabulary, and curious specimens (with translations) of Hungarian poetry. A translation into English by several learned American scholars, in one large volume, of the celebrated *Lexicon* of Dr. William Freund, has been re-issued from the American stereotype plates with the title of *A Copious and Critical Latin-English Lexicon*, edited by Dr. E. A. Andrews, and containing additions and corrections from other famous lexicographers and philologists.

The novelties in the department of fiction are a novel called *The Melvilles*, by the author of 'Join Drayton;' another by Mrs. Margaret Summisse's biographer, called *Adam Graeme of Mossgray*; a third, *Aurilia*, descriptive of social life in Italy; and a fourth, *The School for Fathers*, of which the period is laid in the days of red-heels and periwigs.

The two Italian Opera-houses re-opened after Easter; but neither has as yet produced any remarkable novelty, except Donizetti's opera, *I Martiri*, which has been performed with success at Covent Garden. The possession of Mademoiselle Johanna Wagner, as will be seen from our narrative of law, is a subject of dispute between the two theatres, the fair prima donna having involved herself in engagements with both.

The only English theatrical novelty of the slightest moment has been a three-act comedy, called *Mind your own Business*, by Mr. Mark Lemon, and performed with great applause at the Haymarket.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the Gazette of March 30th.—J. FRASER, Great Suffolk-street, draper.—C. H. SIMSON, Bishops-gate-street, provision-dealer.—T. HEARD, Woodbridge, Suffolk, brewer.—S. L. COLEMAN, Norwich, draper.—T. YOUNGMAN, Old-street-road, draper.—F. G. JOHNS, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, fixture-dealer.—M. S. HOOPER, Billiter-street, tea-dealer.—A. PUCKETT, Melton-street, Enston-square, lodging-house-keeper.—R. CHAMBERLAIN, Uttroeter, draper.—J. C. REEVES, Long Ashton, Somersetshire, paint-manufacturer.—H. HAYMAN, Ottery, St. Mary, apothecary.—H. BATES, Warley, Yorkshire, brewer.—J. BARNES, Liverpool, commission-agent.—H. MARTIN, Liverpool, currier.—J. L. COPELAND, Liverpool, merchant.—R. JOHNSTON, Macclesfield, silk-manufacturer.

April 2nd.—H. STIMSON, St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire, bootmaker.—W. HEWITT, Great Driffield, Yorkshire, brewer.—W. HOGGINOTHAM, Macclesfield, silk-manufacturer.—J. S. McCULLOCH, Liverpool, draper.—J. HALL, Denton, Lancashire, hat-manufacturer.

April 6th.—H. STIMSON, St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire, bootmaker.—H. WORMS, Blackfriars-road, bootmaker.—T. BULL, Greenwich, innkeeper.—S. HAYNES, London-street, Paddington, wheelwright.—H. N. BARNES, Margaretting, Essex, milkman.—I. TIMMINS, Dudley, chartermaster.—W. WILLIAMS, Pontnewydd, Monmouthshire, iron-manufacturer.—J. MITCHELL and E. CLACKSON, Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted-spinners.—G. CHADWICK, Leeds, grocer.—T. WOOD, Northwich, grocer.

April 9th.—C. CHAMPION, Fenchurch-street, merchant.—S. TRICKETT, Victoria Stone Wharf, Isle of Dogs, stone-merchant.—T. B. LAWRENCE, Parliament-street, zinc-dealer.—T. COWDREY, Brighton, wine-merchant.—J. and W. WILLIAMS, Golyons and Varteg, Monmouthshire, shopkeepers.

April 13th.—J. W. ACKROYD, Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted-spinner.—S. H. BROOKES, Gresford, Denbighshire, wire-manufacturer.

April 16th.—W. and C. J. JONES, High-street, Islington, plumbers.—W. LAWSON, Diss, Norfolk, chemist.—J. STUTLEY, Salisbury-street, Stepney, mason.—J. and W. TODD, Yarn, Yorkshire, saddlers.—J. LEADER, Liverpool, joiner.—J. RYMER, Gateshead, paper-manufacturer.

April 20th.—W. J. DARKE and J. PORTER, Hayfield-street, Mile-end-road, carpenters.—E. SPETTIGUG and G. FAIRANCE, Chancery-lane, booksellers.—J. DAWSON, Tolleshunt, Darcy, Essex, surgeon.—W. HODGE, Great Marlborough-street, manufacturing stationer.—J. H. WATKINS, Woolwich, grocer.—P. BEIRNS, Liverpool, tailor.—M. FOURACRE, Wigan, innkeeper.

April 23rd.—H. LAMPELOUGH, Snow-hill, chemist.—J. G. LACY, Great St. Helen's, gum-manufacturer.—J. LAING, Southampton, coal-merchant.—W. LODER, Wokingham, innkeeper.—T. WELSH, Burslem, joiner.—J. MEER, Wolverhampton, victualler.—R. W. TODD and R. HORRIS, Bath, ironmongers.—E. A. YANDALL, Bath, innkeeper.—M. FOURACRE, Wigan, innkeeper and colliery proprietor.—T. PEARCE and W. THACKRAY, Sunderland, timber-merchants.—H. BATES and H. WILLIAMSON, Warley, Halifax, brewers.

April 27th.—J. D. BENJAMIN, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury-square, dealer in cigars.—H. DAVIES, Liverpool, leather-seller.—T. LAWSON, Bury, Lancashire, draper.—J. MCCOSKIE, Liverpool, merchant.—A. MASON, Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, ironmonger.—T. MILLS, Llandidloes, Montgomeryshire, grocer.—L. NEWHAM, Sheffield, draper.—H. PLUMMER, jun., Golden-lane, St. Luke, wood-turner.—J. WOOD and E. NORTON, Hoyland Nether, Yorkshire, corn-millers.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

April 16th.—W. GREEN, Coggeshall, Essex, builder.
April 20th.—H. COOKE, Leamington Priors, hatter.
April 23rd.—C. J. KNAPPING, Eastwood, Essex, cattle-dealer.
—H. CLARK, Bank-chambers, stock-broker.

MONEY MARKET.

The Funds have been steady during the month, and the same is the case with the Share-market. The bullion in the Bank has been diminished by a large exportation of sovereigns to Australia.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	99½	98½	98½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	99½	98½	98½
Three and a quarter per Cents . .	100½	99½	100½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 . . .	6½	6½	6½
Bank Stock, 7 per cent.	220½	216	220½
India Stock	265	262	265
Eschequer Bills, £500	72	66	66pm
India Bonds, 3 per cent.	77	86	87pm

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Belgian 4½ per cent, 93½	Peruvian 5 per cent, 104
Brazilian 5 per cent, 101½	Portuguese 4 per cent, 38
Chilian 6 per cent, 103	Russian 4½ per cent, 101
Danish 5 per cent, 104½	Sardinian, acc., 97½
Dutch 4 p. c. certificates, 94½	Spanish 3 per cent, 47½
Mexican 3 per cent, 27½	

PAID.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Brighton and South Coast.	105½	98½	104½
all	Blackwall	8½	7½	8½
50	Caledonian	20½	18½	20½
20	Eastern Counties	9½	9½	9
50	Edinburgh and Glasgow . . .	33½	28	32½
all	Great Northern	20½	20	20½
100	Great Western	92½	88½	92½
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire . .	74½	71½	72½
100	Midland	69½	64½	67½
25	North British	8½	8½	8½
100	North-Western	125½	123½	125½
30	South-Eastern	22½	21½	22
100	South-Western	93½	89	93½
25	York, Newc., and Berwick . .	19½	18½	18½
50	York and North Midland . . .	26½	24½	25½

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 13½	Paris and Orleans, 48
Dutch Rhensh, 3½ dis.	Paris and Rouen, 31½
East Indian, 21½	Paris and Strasbourg, 22½
Namur and Liege, 6½	Rouen and Havre, 11½
Northern of France, 24½	Tours and Nantes, 11½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 41s. 11d.; Oats, 19s. 7d.; Rye, 31s. 10d.; Beans, 30s.; Peas, 29s. 8d.; Flour per sack, 40s. to 43s.; American, per barrel of 196 lbs., 20s. to 25s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Limerick, 48s.; Belfast, 50s.	Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.
Beef, per tierce, prime mess, 70s. to 98s. 9d.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 50s. to 60s.; Irish, 40s. to 63s.; Westphalia, 48s. to 52s.
Butter, per cwt.—Carlow, 1st, 60s. to 80s.; Waterford, 1st, 58s. to 64s.; Dutch Friesland, 89s. to 96s.; Limerick, 1st, 58s. to 66s.	Mutton, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42s. to 68s.; Wiltshire, double, 39s. to 56s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 31s. to 39s.; American, 40s. to 46s.	Pork, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.
	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 65s. to 80s.; Kent and Essex Midding, 23s. to 40s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. in bond, Ord. to good red Trinidad, 41s. to 42s.; Brazil, 26s. to 28s.	Sago, per cwt. in bond.—Pearl, 14s. to 16s.
Coffee, per cwt. in bond.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 60s. to 85s.; Mocha, 41s. to 99s.; St. Domingo, 37s. to 44s.; Sumatra, 35s. to 36s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica, 28s. to 37s. 6d.; Muscovado, 20s. 10d. to 37s.; Brazil, 26s. to 38s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal mid. to fine white, 9s. 6d. to 11s. 6d.; Madras, 8s. 6d. to 10s.	Tea, per lb. in bond.—Ord. Congou, 7d. to 1s. 6d.; Sou-chong, com. to fine, 1s. to 2s.; ord. to fine Hyson, 1s. 1d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.

Candles, per 12 lb. 4s.

Coals, per ton, 16s.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 30l. 10s.

OILS.

Sperm, 84l.

Olive, Gallipoli, 44l. to 45l.

Cod, 33l. to 33l. 10s.

Linseed, 27l. to 27l. 10s.

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.] FROM THE 28TH APRIL TO THE 27TH MAY. [PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE political drama has been played since our last publication chiefly in the Theatre Royal St. Stephen's; the most startling and attractive production having been the great financial performance of Mr. Disraeli, under the title of "The Budget." A prologue, a few interludes, and the after-piece of The Militia Bill in Committee, complete the programme of the month.

The speakers of the prologue were the supporters and opponents of a bill to abolish the religious test applicable to professors in the Scottish universities. By the law as it stands, every professor must, when appointed, declare that he is a member of the established Church of Scotland. It happens, however, that, since the last great disruption and defection to the Free Church, not one candidate in ten can, with a clear conscience, make such a declaration; for there are not enough men of mark left in the "Residuary" Church to supply the Scottish universities with professors, even without competition. The result is, that the university patrons must either draw their professorial clients from a too limited body, or must prevail on other candidates to become colourable members of the prescribed church for the occasion—that occasion enforcing a solemn subscription to the confession of the Presbyterian State faith. Immediately after the performance of that ceremony, the professor may relapse into his old creed, or may, if he pleases, turn Mormonite; for no earthly power exists to unseat him, on religious grounds, when once he has been firmly "chaired." Of course the practical result of the anomaly is, that the test is rarely enforced and the statute effete. For that reason, the Ministry opposed its abolition; and with success. The test consequently still remains. The question spreads far beyond the local circle within which it specially ranges. The English universities are hampered with a similar restriction: the best scholar, the most profound mathematician, would be rejected from Oxford and Cambridge, if he could not *say* he is a member of the Church of England. This support given by the Derby ministry to the Scotch university test, coupled with the previous declaration of its chief, that he intended to confide the education of the people solely to the Established Clergy, darkens—transiently it must be hoped—the prospects of national education. The chance of limited educational reform in our Universities offered, however, in the report of the Royal Commissioners who have enquired into the condition of the University of Oxford, affords a small gleam of hope. A summary of what the Commissioners propose is printed in another column. They find that at one time the Oxford Almshouse held within her tutorial embrace 30,000 sons; she now claims no more than 1300. "These results," says the report, "appear small when the large endowments of the colleges are considered. The education imparted does not conduce to the advancement in life of many per-

sons except those intended for the church."—While again the struggle for reforming Oxford is going on, the graduates of the University of London are striving to be combined, like their elder brethren, into a Convocation, and to have a voice in the management of their own affairs. They also aspire to be represented in parliament, *vice* St. Alban's or Sudbury.

University tests, and a few other little pieces disposed of, the parliamentary stage was cleared for the great actor of the month—the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The closest mystery was preserved as to the plot of his forthcoming performance, "The Budget." Whether he intended to tax coals or cotton, and to untax soap and paper; whether he would please the farmers by sweeping away the malt duties, or witch the whole public by taking off the income tax, remained, until the actual rising of the curtain, solemn secrets. On the eventful evening there was a densely crowded house; members overflowed from their proper pit to the galleries; and the boxes, (in which Mr. Barry's leaf-trellis jealously screens the fair audience from the senator's view,) were well filled. In slowly delivered sentences the Exchequer *débütant* opened his Budget. The attention of the audience was breathless. The author of "Sybil" gave an artistic picture of the financial condition of the country; he painted it in the glowing colours which a surplus of three millions sterling of income over expenditure is calculated to brighten such a subject. In accounting for this happy financial condition, the Protectionist leader of the House of Commons passed a hearty eulogy on the policy of his predecessors in office. Free trade, he said, had done it all! The opposition cheered vociferously; ministerial supporters, not in the secret, were agast,—the expression of their faces being that of men who could not believe their own ears. Was it all irony? or would their Proteus dash out the picture he had just drawn, with a black prophecy for the future; or with a bold proposition to tax corn immediately? He did neither. After denouncing the house-tax as nonsensical, and the income-tax as unjust, he asked the house to confirm a resolution for continuing injustice, for another year, by a re-imposition of the Property and Income tax.

The budget, therefore, on being opened was found to be empty. The play would have been utterly condemned, but for the wondrous skill of the performer, who made a vast deal out of nothing. Like many such exhibitions, it belied its title; it was not a Budget, but a Recantation.

So bold a conversion necessarily introduced into the Derby camp division of counsels; and, to soften it, many expedients were resorted to. Lord Derby made an after-dinner speech, at a feast given by the Lord Mayor, in which he preached on the text of "Compromises." The interpretation of his doctrine appeared to be, that it is quite moral to "compromise" the strongest convictions with powerfully urged public

demands, even although such demands be erroneous and inexpedient. A more substantial sop was afterwards attempted. The seats left vacant by the too-flagrant constituencies of St. Alban's and Sudbury, ministers proposed to give to agricultural districts. This attempt failed; for they were beaten by a goodly majority.

It has been long foreseen that, for the forthcoming general election, there would be an unprecedented dearth of party cries, and Mr. Spooner determined to do his part in supplying at least one watchword, which has been potent for ages,—"No Popery!" Under pretence of opposing the Government Grant to the Catholic College of Maynooth, he revived the old allegations and denunciations against Popery which were current in the early days of Catholic Emancipation. The ministers threw this as another sop to their discontented supporters. They befriended Mr. Spooner's motion; which was not, boldly, to rescind the grant, but to appoint a committee to inquire into the expediency of its continuance. Little was to be gained or lost by the motion (which eventually fell still-born), except a motto to go to the hustings with:—which is something; for the silence of the Cabinet as to its future intentions, leaves its supporters scarcely a word to say to their constituents.

To this reserve the doctrine of "compromise" is the key. No goading, no putting to the question; no sort of categorical torture has, as yet, extracted from any member of the Cabinet the avowal that he abandons Protection. At length, however, only a few hours before this sheet is printed, Lord Derby—challenged by the Duke of Newcastle, and hard pressed by Lord Granville—ventured to say in the House of Peers, that although he thought relief of the pressure upon the agriculturists in the form of a modified tax on foreign corn might be "desirable," yet such a measure is not "necessary;" and that, moreover, its re-imposition is not probable; because an extensive majority in the country is manifestly against it. A clearer and more practical commentary on the doctrine of compromises could not have been framed.

The parts played in the afterpiece of the month were too numerous and insignificant to demand much notice. Considering the imminent danger of invasion; keeping in view what Lord Palmerston told us; namely, that Louis Napoleon can step on shore at any point between the Land's End and the North Foreland, on any evening he pleases, it was wisely decided, when the Militia Bill passed through committee, that the measure should not come into operation until next year. If a militia be our palladium, 1853 is, then, safe enough; but how is 1852 to hold its own? Yet we go on calmly debating all manner of domestic questions; buying and selling; marrying and giving in marriage; and doing nothing preventive beyond appointing a committee of Peers to receive the secret of Captain Warner's tremendous recipe for making long ranges and explosive compounds.

The booksellers, for instance, have brought their trade discussion to a close, as deliberately as if they had never heard of a militia bill or of a French army. Lord Campbell, and his co-arbitrators, have decided, against the Publishers' Association, that a retail bookseller has a right to dispose of his own property in new books to his customers at any price he pleases—a right of which no peculiarity in the art of book-selling affords any pretence for depriving him.

Neither have fears of invasion diverted public attention from certain unpleasant colonial prospects. While Australian gold is filling our pockets, it is formally stripping us of means to cover our backs. Six-sevenths of the wool which clothes the British population is of Australian growth; and, as Australian

labourers prefer digging for gold to clipping sheep; however great the cry for it, there will, this season, be very little wool. Means are being devised to send out armies of shearers, and soldiers are to be dispatched to see that they stick to their sheep. No expedient however accompanies these warriors to prevent them from becoming bad shepherds, and from doing a little digging on their own private accounts.—War still rages in the Cape colony, with the additional horror of extreme cruelty to British prisoners inflicted by the Caffres; and by this time the fire of our Indian troops has been opened upon the Burmese. Colonial and Indian affairs therefore do not look very promising, and are well calculated to divert the attention of the timid from a French invasion.

England is not the only nation that casts furtive glances towards Paris. The cautious and wily approaches which Louis Napoleon has been making towards the apex of his ambition—the establishment of an hereditary crown—all leading gradually up to the grand distribution of eagles to the army, and the imposing promulgation of the oath of allegiance, have not been overlooked by the Northern Powers. It appears that the visits of the Emperor of Russia to Vienna and to Berlin, were not made simply to arrange the differences existing between those courts, but to confer respecting the designs of Louis Napoleon. The result was the formal diplomatic note, we previously adverted to, from the Czar to the Prince President, forbidding him to revive his dynastic claims. Prince Napoleon's expedient for consolidating his position has therefore entirely failed: nor has his position been improved internally by the refusal of such influential politicians as Arago and Changarnier to take the oath of allegiance to him, so extensively administered on the 10th.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON TUESDAY, April 27th, Lord TORRINGTON presented a petition from the merchants and traders of London and Westminster, complaining of the Treasury minute with respect to the sale of *Coffee mixed with Chicory*, and entered into a statement of the reasons which rendered the rescinding of that minute desirable. He concluded by moving that the petition be laid on the table.—The Duke of MONTEBROSE supported the motion.—The Earl of DERBY admitted the importance of the petition, and expressed his dissent from the doctrine laid down on the subject by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. Though there might be some difficulty in rescinding the treasury minute complained of, the present government would give their best endeavours to prevent the spurious mixture of deleterious articles with coffee. The petition was then ordered to lie on the table. The St. Alban's disfranchisement bill was read a third time and passed.

On Thursday the 29th, Earl GRANVILLE drew the attention of the house to some *Honours paid to General Rosas* on his landing at Plymouth, and asked Lord MALMESBURY whether instructions had been given to that effect.—Lord MALMESBURY replied, that no instructions from the Foreign office, nor, to the best of his belief, from the Admiralty, had been sent down for the reception of General-Rosas with official honours; he supposed, therefore, that the authorities at Plymouth had been actuated by a desire to show hospitality to a distinguished refugee. Whatever the private character of General Rosas might be, his misfortunes, and the kindness which he had shown to British merchants, entitled him to be treated with delicacy.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY brought forward his motion on the *Sanitary State of London*, and after entering very fully into the statistics of the subject, and demonstrating the miseries which a large portion of the population suffered under the existing system, entreated the house to pass a resolution to the effect that the

sanitary state of the metropolis required the immediate interposition of the government.—The Earl of DERBY declined to follow Lord Shaftesbury into his statistics, and complained that with all his experience he had failed to point out any definite measures by which the great evils of the existing system might be remedied. This sanitary question had occupied the attention of parliament for several years, and no satisfactory result had been arrived at. Under the circumstances he thought the noble lord should have laid a bill on the table which might have been calmly discussed, instead of moving this abstract proposition, which unreasonably called on the house to settle a question at once which had been a puzzle to parliament for ten years. After some further discussion, the Earl of Derby suggested that the word "immediate" should be omitted in the motion.—The Earl of Shaftesbury having agreed to this suggestion, the motion, as so amended, was agreed to.

On Friday, the 30th, the Earl of MALMESBURY said, in reference to the question put to him on the last evening, as to *General Rosas*, he at the time could not charge his memory with a circumstance which had occurred so far back as six weeks ago. On examining his papers he found that he had directed an order to be issued to the authorities at Southampton, Plymouth, and other ports, that they were to receive General Rosas and his family with all consideration and courtesy, and afford every facility for the landing of his effects. This, said the noble earl, might almost be considered a stereotyped order, issued under similar circumstances, and did not mean to convey that the general's luggage should be passed free of duty.—Lord GRANVILLE expressed himself satisfied with the terms of the order issued.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH said that under the circumstances attending General Rosas' arrival in this country the government should have observed the greatest caution in the tone of the reception given to him, as it was an event that was likely to invite the greatest attention, and to be greatly exaggerated in foreign countries.

On Tuesday, May 4th, Lord LYNCHURST moved for leave to introduce a bill to *Abolish certain Disabilities imposed by the Statute of the 6th of George I.* He had been induced to consider this question on general grounds, but public attention had recently been drawn to it by a decision of the Court of Exchequer in the case of Alderman Salomons.—Lord CAMPBELL having expressed the pleasure he felt at the motion, Lord Derby hoped that the house would not be led away from the general question into a discussion on Jewish disabilities. He did not question the right of Lord Lynchurst to introduce such a measure on general grounds, but he thought it unfortunate that he had chosen the present moment for bringing it forward, when the particular case to which he had alluded was still unsettled. With respect to that case, the government thought that, if Mr. Alderman Salomons presented a petition representing the grievances to which he was actually subjected after his appeal was decided, he would be fairly entitled to an act of indemnity.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE hoped that Lord Lynchurst would bring forward his bill at once, independently of all allusions to the case of Mr. Alderman Salomons. After some further discussion the bill was read a first time.

On Monday, May 10th, the Bishop of LONDON stated his intention of introducing, in the next session of parliament, a bill providing that *Questions of False Doctrine should be referred to the Bishops* for their decision prior to their being decided upon by the Privy Council, and expressed a strong hope that the government would accord to it their most favourable consideration.—The Earl of DERBY thought that such a regulation would be a very wise one, and that the opinion of the bishops would be most valuable on such subjects.

On Friday, May 14th, Earl TALBOT moved for a select Committee to inquire into *Captain Warner's Inventions*, which, the noble earl contended, were most valuable, and well worthy of the attention of the government.—The Earl of HARDWICKE was not opposed to the motion, provided Captain Warner was willing to give to

the committee full and unreserved explanations.—Lord DE ROOS observed that until Captain Warner gave practical proof of the merit of his inventions the legislature could not sanction them.—The Earl of ALBEMARLE, the Earl of MINTO, and the Duke of ARGYLL opposed the motion.—The Earl of MALMESBURY said the inquiry could do good only in the event of Captain Warner being disposed to divulge his secret.—The Earl of WINCHILSEA thought without the certainty of a reward this was hardly to be expected.—The Earl of ELLENBROUGH was unwilling to give encouragement to fanciful experiments.—Earl TALBOT in reply, said Captain Warner would be able to satisfy the committee of the merit of his invention, and after a few observations from Lord Kenyon and Earl Granville, the motion was agreed to, on the understanding urged by the Earl of Malmesbury that Captain Warner must submit to be examined upon oath without any stipulation for reward.

On Monday, May 17th, the Duke of Argyll having brought before the house the *Case of Mr. Edward Murray*, an English subject condemned to death at Rome, the Earl of MALMESBURY stated that on his accession to office he had been informed that Mr. Murray, who had been in prison for some time on a charge of being associated with banditti, was about to be brought to trial at Rome, and he had accordingly written to Mr. Freeborn to request that he would see that Mr Murray had fair play at his trial.

On Tuesday, May 18th, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH renewed his motion about *Papers relating to Ava*, and defended General Godwin from reflections which had been cast upon him.—The Earl of DERBY said that despatches relating to our dispute with Ava had been received by the last mail, and would be laid before the house as speedily as possible. With respect to General Godwin, he (Lord Derby) had ascertained that the Governor-General of India imputed no delay to that gallant officer.

On Friday, May 21st, the Duke of WELLINGTON, in reference to the committee agreed to on the subject of *Captain Warner's Inventions*, suggested that the enquiry ought not to be entered into until their lordships had seen the report of the master-general of the Ordnance, and moved for a copy of it. The appointment of the committee was accordingly postponed and the Duke's motion was agreed to.

In reply to a question from the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of DERBY said, that there was no present intention on the part of the government to make any alteration in the *Grant to Mayoath*.—The Marquis of BREADALBANE then presented some petitions against the grant, which led to considerable discussion; they were, then ordered to be laid on the table.

On Monday the 24th, the Earl of DERBY moved the second reading of the *Property-tax Continuance Bill*, and having recalled to the attention of the house the understanding that no measure involving any material political alteration should be introduced during the present session, proceeded to say that he rested the continuance of this originally temporary measure on its necessity for the maintenance of the public credit, as if it were repealed there would in all probability be a deficit at the end of the year 1853 of five millions. He should have been most happy to have it in his power to repeal or reduce this justly obnoxious tax, but in the circumstances in which ministers were now placed, and with the prospect of a reference being made to the country at no distant period as to the general financial and commercial policy which the country was to adopt, he trusted that their lordships would not only assent to the second reading of this bill, but would also be of opinion that the continuance of it for one year was the only course consistent with the engagements which the government had contracted with the country.—The Duke of NEWCASTLE denied that the income-tax was a temporary measure in the sense asserted by Lord Derby. It had been originated, as the noble earl, having himself been a colleague of the late Sir R. Peel, would recollect, to enable the government of the day to deal with the other branches of revenue in such a manner as that these revenues might eventually recover themselves, after which this tax might be dispensed

with, but it was not then contemplated that the revenue would recover itself so speedily as the noble earl would now wish the house to believe. The noble duke then went into statistical details as to the reduction of the duties on corn, as to the influx of gold into the country, as to the increased consumption of sugar, and as to the repeal of the navigation laws, and concluded by warning Lord Derby that, however much he might desire, in the next session of parliament, to repeal or modify the income-tax, he must not attempt to effect his object by reimposing import duties on the food of the people.—Lord GRANVILLE wished to know whether it was or was not the intention of the government to continue the policy of the late Sir Robert Peel, for up to the present moment the country was quite in the dark on that point.—The Earl of DERBY was of opinion that a duty on corn was a desirable mode of relieving the agricultural classes; but the question must be settled by the constituencies, and he would add that he did not think there would be that extensive majority in favour of a duty on foreign corn which would render it desirable to re-impose such a duty.—Lord GREY demonstrated the prosperity which existed under the existing system, and implored Lord Derby to escape from the ambiguity in which his policy was enveloped, and to shrink no longer from expressing himself in a straightforward and manly way on the question of Free Trade.—The Earl of DERBY replied in a speech of great length, the purport of which was, that though he did not believe the next election would show a large majority in favour of Protection, yet, should there be such a majority, he would be prepared to act up to his opinions as to the desirability of a moderate duty on corn.—After some observations from the Duke of ARGYLL, the bill was read a second time.

On Tuesday, the 25th, Lord CRANWORTH moved the second reading of the *Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill*, and stated its object and provisions.—The Lord CHANCELLOR urged several objections to the measure. He said, however, that he should not oppose the second reading, but should recommend the bill being referred to a select committee.—The bill was then read a second time, and on the motion of the Lord Chancellor was referred to a select committee.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Tuesday, April 27, Mr. LOCKE KING moved for leave to bring in a bill to assimilate the franchise and procedure at elections in counties in England and Wales to those in boroughs, by *Giving the right of Voting to occupiers of Tenements of 10l. a year*; by limiting the polling to one day; and by restricting the time of proceeding to election to eight days. The bill he proposed to introduce he said was, with a few additional provisions, the same as that of last session, the principles of which had been often discussed.—Mr. CAMPBELL opposed the motion upon the grounds heretofore urged against the measure by Lord J. Russell, and because, in his opinion, it would open fresh sources of corruption at elections.—Mr. HUME supported the motion, insisting upon the policy as well as necessity of enlarging the franchise.—Lord J. MANNERS opposed the motion. If a motion of this nature, which would effect a revolution in the county franchise, was to be now discussed, the house must be prepared for a prolongation of the session. The motion was based upon an assumption admitting of two alternatives; the franchise in counties and boroughs might be assimilated by raising that of the latter, as well as by lowering that of the former. The subject, however, he admitted, was well worthy the consideration of a new parliament.—Lord R. GROSVENOR should vote for the introduction of the bill, in the hope that the government, in the committee, would consent to retain those parts of the bill which limited the poll to one day, and the time intervening between the proclamation and the writ to eight days.—Mr. BRIGHT contended that if the county constituencies included the county population in the same manner as the borough constituencies took in the population of the towns, the apparent discrepancies between the two would disappear, and the basis upon which that house stood would be strengthened.—Lord J. RUSSELL opposed the motion, because he thought it

would be wise to consider the subject of the representation as a whole, not in separate portions.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER objected to the motion—first, because it was partial, agreeing with the noble lord that the representation of the community must be considered on an extensive scale; secondly, because the proposed measure did not meet a very great deficiency of the act of 1832, namely, a want of consideration for the claims of the working classes to the franchise. The remedy offered threw the county representation into the hands of a mere class, so numerous as to be able to change the constitution. There was no reason why an industrial franchise should not concede claims which he had often said deserved the consideration of any government; but this bill, so far from meeting the object, although its advocates alleged that property was too much represented, proposed that it should be represented still more. Until some measure was found which met the exigency of the case (which should receive his respectful attention), he must take his stand upon the settlement as it existed, refusing to go on, year after year, tampering with the constituency, a practice which was a source of political weakness and national debility. For these reasons he should give the motion his unqualified opposition.—After some remarks from Sir B. HALL in support of the motion, the house divided, when it was negatived by 202 against 149.

On Wednesday the 28th, on the motion for the second reading of the *Universities of Scotland Bill*, Mr. SCOTT opposed the measure (which was intended to abolish tests) as subversive of the character of the Scottish universities, as well as injurious to the church of Scotland, and to the education of the youth of that country, whilst it interfered with the treaty of union. The object of these tests was, that the teachers of youth should be imbued with religious truth, should recognise the doctrine and be subject to the discipline of the established church, and the present system had for a century and a half fulfilled that object. With these and other reasons for retaining subscription, there was no valid plea for abandoning a security for religion as well as doctrine. He moved that the second reading be deferred for six months.—Mr. MONCREIFF explained the grounds upon which he thought the house ought to adopt this measure. The people of Scotland had been appealed to, and it was clear they were willing that these tests should be swept away. If the bill could be construed as an attack upon religion or the orthodox instruction of youth, or if it removed an apparent security, it might be objected to; but it merely did away with a great practical evil—a religious test which admitted those it was framed to exclude, was utterly useless as a security, and a scandal to the statute book. The established church of Scotland had no control over the universities, which were seats of instruction, not ecclesiastical institutions, like those in the south. The main, if not sole, purpose of these tests was to exclude episcopacy, and the effect of the bill was to redress an act of injustice perpetrated in 1711, when the act of security was violated in the matter of lay patronage. When it was urged that there should be some security against infidelity and scepticism, he answered that they were not excluded by the tests, which did keep out men of sound religious principles. They were altogether useless: of eighty professors in the Scotch universities, twenty-four had either taken the test not being of the establishment, or had not taken it at all. With respect to the act of union, the question was, whether parliament was not entitled to sweep away tests which bind where they should not bind, and did not bind where they ought.—Mr. WALPOLE said the government felt it to be their duty to oppose this bill, because, first, it was a direct violation of a fundamental article of a national compact at the union of the two countries, which ought not to be broken in upon without the strongest necessity; secondly, because its principle, once adopted, would undermine the foundations of all ecclesiastical institutions throughout the realm for the education and instruction of youth. Had the tests operated to inflict injury? Mr. Moncreiff had shown that they did not exclude competent persons; no complaint had been made in respect to the morals or the ability of those who actually filled the professorial

chairs; the alteration, therefore, was not required.—Mr. HUME supported the bill, conceiving that parliament should make the institutions of the country consonant to the wants and wishes of the people.—Sir G. CLERK, on the other hand, looked upon this as the first step in the course of mischievous legislation, as regarded not only the educational system of Scotland, but that of England. Attempts had been made to separate the Scotch primary schools from the established church, and if that end should be accomplished a dangerous latitudinarian spirit would be introduced into Scotland. No case, he contended, had been made out for so serious an alteration.—Lord J. RUSSELL was surprised at this declaration after the full, complete, and convincing argument of Mr. Moncreiff. The opponents of the bill, whilst alleging that the retention of these tests was indispensable, pleaded that they were constantly relaxed; but this power might be capriciously exercised. The object of the tests was to exclude episcopalians, whilst practically they admitted episcopalians and excluded presbyterians. A state of the law so anomalous and absurd ought to be got rid of as soon as possible.—After some further debate the second reading was *negatived* by 172 against 157.

On the order for the second reading of the *Colonial Bishops Bill*, Mr. GLADSTONE defined its object, which was, that in the colonies included in the schedule and others declared by her Majesty in council, what was called the church of England in the colonies should be put, in regard to its own ecclesiastical affairs, on a footing of equality with all unprivileged and unestablished denominations of religion, subject to such restraints as parliament thought fit. The bill in no respect trenching upon the rights of colonial authorities; it meddled not with religious opinions; it had no relations, notwithstanding its title, to colonial bishops apart from the members of their communions; and its principle was to leave the colonies, subject to any restraint upon imperial grounds, to the unrestricted management of their own colonial affairs, ecclesiastical or civil, without infringing the religious liberty of members of any other communion. After noticing the objections urged against a similar bill introduced in a former session, he applied himself to show the reality of a demand for legislation upon this subject. There were no ecclesiastical courts in the colonies, and it would be absurd to introduce them. The colonial bishops had powers, but they were of a bad kind, and his object was to enable parties in the colonies to frame regulations for themselves, instead of remaining, in this respect, in a state of anarchy, tempered only by that good sense which regulated the great bulk of these communities. He read various declarations from bishops, clergy, and laity, in seven or eight colonial dioceses, in favour of mixed synodical conventions for the administration of church affairs; and, assuming that a want existed, he examined the two opinions which prevailed as to the mode in which the want should be supplied. The proposal that it should be done by a parliamentary constitution for the church in the colonies he repudiated; the other plan was that which he had embodied in this bill.—On the motion of Sir J. PAKINGTON, the debate was adjourned until the 19th of May.

On Thursday, the 29th, the Marquis of BLANDFORD moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable her Majesty further to *Regulate the Duties of Ecclesiastical Personages, and to make better Provision for the Management and Distribution of Episcopal and Capitular Revenues*. Adverting to the satisfactory and encouraging answer of her Majesty to the address he moved last session on the subject of spiritual destitution throughout England and Wales, he stated that the motives for this motion were twofold—first, the acknowledged necessity of enabling the established church to extend its ramifications amongst the masses of our rapidly-increasing population; secondly, a desire to provide a practical remedy for abuses known to exist in the establishment, arising from the want of a sufficiently active legislation in matters of this nature. He showed that, from the reign of Henry VIII., parliament had evinced a desire to secure religious instruction for the people, and at a later period had laid down the principle, that spiritual destitution was one of those national calamities for which parliament was bound to provide a remedy. He then

referred to the inquiries which had been made into the revenues of the church, and to the appointment of the ecclesiastical commission, noticing the principles adopted by parliament in relation to church reform, what had been done by the ecclesiastical commissioners, and the paucity of bishops, and the deficiency of the clerical staff. The modifications he proposed related to the constitution and duties of chapters, which would leave a disposable revenue of nearly 60,000*l.* a-year. He proposed to erect two new dioceses, Westminster and Bristol, and to give permissive power to divide existing dioceses. He explained the manner in which he proposed to effect these divisions, and specified the respective incomes which it was intended by the bill to assign to the future occupants of the old as well as of the new sees, the result of which would be that a surplus of 27,000*l.* a year would be applicable to the general purposes and wants of the church. In the last place, he proposed that the capitular property, and the episcopal property under certain limitations and conditions, not the fee, but the management, should be transferred to and vested in the ecclesiastical commissioners.—Lord R. GROSVEHOR seconded the motion.—Mr. WALPOLE expressed the assent of the government to the bill being brought in; and Sir R. INGLIS expressed his regret that this assent had been given. Leave was given to bring in the bill.

Mr. HEEWOOD moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider the *Preservation of the Crystal Palace*, with a view to its applicability to purposes of public recreation or instruction; and Mr. HUME seconded the motion.—Lord J. MANNERS stated the reasons which induced her Majesty's government to think that the original condition, under which the building was to be removed, ought to be adhered to. But for this solemn and positive engagement, he thought it very probable that the building would never have existed. He read the terms of the stipulations, and the official correspondence which had taken place with reference to this subject, in which it was clearly understood that the building was to be a temporary one, and to be removed immediately after the close of the Exhibition; and he insisted that the evil which would result from so manifest and flagrant a violation of public faith and engagements would greatly outweigh any possible good that might result from its retention. The noble lord read passages from the evidence of professional witnesses to show that the building, in its present state, was unfit for the purposes of a permanent structure, and he enumerated the schemes of appropriation suggested by various projectors, one of which assumed that the building must be opened to the working classes on Sundays. He considered it impolitic to concentrate attractions for the people, which should on the contrary be diffused, and he thought it would be well to consider whether the building might not be erected on such a site as Battersea Park, for which object the co-operation of the government would be cheerfully and readily afforded. He asked the house to reject the motion.—After a debate, in which the motion was supported by Mr. G. Cavendish, Mr. Macgregor, Lord Palmerston, and Sir R. Peel; and opposed by Mr. Labouchere and Lord Seymour; the motion was *negatived* by 221 against 103.

On Friday the 30th, in a committee of Ways and Means, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his *Financial Statement* for the ensuing year. He had, he said, a difficult task before him, as any minister must have who found that owing to the cessation of a large source of revenue he had to deal with a deficit, and to devise means, the least unpopular, for supplying that deficiency. Looking to the source from which that deficiency might be met, he believed that it was hopeless to expect that it could be supplied by the customs, when it was recollected that since 1842 an aggregate amount of no less than nine millions of customs duties had been repealed. It was equally hopeless to expect to make good the deficiency from the excise duties, because one million and a half of excise duties had been reduced within the same ten years since 1842. The next mode to which they might be supposed to turn was a system of direct taxation, but the temper of the house upon the subject of direct taxation was so unfavourable that when the income tax was established

it was introduced apologetically to meet an emergency, and even then it was so modelled by exceptions that it could not fall upon the mass of the community. Still it was with difficulty it was passed—with greater difficulty renewed—and at length it became so odious that it was with immense difficulty renewed even for a single year, and then upon conditions somewhat hard. One of the great objections to the tax on property and income was that there was no difference in the rate of assessment upon incomes of a permanent and of a temporary character. The committee had received evidence from scientific persons as to the most desirable means of equalising the burdens; but he must say, practically speaking, that if those gentlemen's plans should be adopted, schedule A, schedule B, and schedule C would become no less odious than schedule D. There was one point on which all were agreed, and that was, if they were to resort to a system of direct taxation they should not rest it upon a large foundation of exemptions. Direct taxation must be as general, as universal as indirect taxation, or it would be glaringly unjust, amounting in principle to a system of confiscation. During the last session of parliament direct taxation had been repealed to the extent of nearly 2,000,000*l.* by the abolition of the window tax; but they found themselves obliged to impose a tax on houses to make up a portion of the deficiency. This house tax, however, was beset by the same evil as pervaded all other direct taxes, for it was based upon so large a system of exemption that, out of three millions and a half of houses, only four hundred thousand were subjected to the tax. He now called the attention of the house to the income and expenditure for the year. The estimate for the year just closed was 52,140,000*l.*, but the actual result was 52,468,317*l.*, although very considerable reductions of taxation had taken place. After deducting the expenditure, there would remain a surplus of 2,176,998*l.* The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year, for which he scarcely held himself responsible, was 51,163,979*l.* And now he came to consider the sources from which that expenditure was to be supplied. The right hon. gentleman here enlarged upon the extraordinary manner in which the revenue had maintained itself, notwithstanding the enormous reductions which had been made in the sugar, timber, and other duties, and which he thought justified him in the following estimate for the year ending the 5th of April, 1853:—

Customs	£20,572,000
Excise	14,094,000
Stamps	6,339,000
Taxes	3,060,000
Property tax for half a year, for it will not expire until October	2,503,500
Post office	938,000
Woods, &c.	235,000
Miscellaneous	260,000
Old Stores	400,000
Total	£48,983,500

This would leave a deficiency (without the income tax) of no less than 2,180,479*l.* He believed that allowances must be made in calculating the revenue to be derived from the income tax, for decreased rentals and the decrease under schedule D, owing to the cultivator of the soil availing himself of the clause of last session. If the income tax were to be continued from October next for another year, allowing for those deductions, the income for the ensuing year would be 51,625,000*l.* leaving an estimated surplus over expenditure of 461,021*l.* It appeared to the government, under these circumstances, that they had but one course to adopt. They were not averse to considering the whole of our financial system, but it was impossible that they could have done so hitherto, and he felt strongly that nothing could be more unwise than to be tampering with the indirect taxation of the country, until they should have arrived at some fixed principle upon which our system of taxation should be based. Under these circumstances, the house would not be surprised at his proposing a continuance of the duties on property and income for the limited period of one year, as a provisional remedy, until other means could be devised. Mr. Disraeli concluded by moving a resolution to the effect, that it was the opinion of the committee that the income tax

should be continued for one year, and resumed his seat amidst loud cheering from all parts of the house.—After desultory remarks from a number of members, all bearing testimony to the clearness and ability of the statement, the resolution was agreed to.

On Monday, May 3rd, Sir J. PAKINGTON moved for leave to bring in a bill to grant a *Representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand*. He gave a brief outline of the history of the colony, and the circumstances which led to the suspension (which would cease in March, 1853) of the constitution of 1846. He dwelt upon the progress and growing importance of the colony, observing that there was every reason why the colonists should now be intrusted with the privilege of self-government. Difficulties however, presented themselves which distinguished this colony from almost every other dependency of the crown, in its geographical peculiarities, the mode in which it had been settled in detached communities, the very high intellectual grade of the natives, and their extraordinary advance in civilisation. Upon this last point Sir John read from the despatches of Sir G. Grey some remarkable extracts, and he then explained the scheme of the constitution proposed by the present government, pointing out, as he proceeded, wherein it differed from that designed by Earl Grey. It was their opinion that New Zealand should be considered as one colony, and that it should be divided into seven provinces, each governed by a superintendent, appointed by the governor-in-chief with a salary of 500*l.* a year, each superintendent to have a legislative council of not fewer than nine members, to be entirely elective, the franchise of the electors (natives not being excluded) to be as follows:—a freehold worth 50*l.*, or a house, if in a town, worth 10*l.* a year, if in the country 5*l.* a year, or leasehold property, with an unexpired term of three years, worth 10*l.* a year. The question whether members of these provincial councils should be paid was left to the central legislature. The duration of these councils it was proposed to limit to four years. The central legislature would consist of the governor-in-chief, as head, and of two chambers. In the scheme of Lord Grey the upper chamber was to be a representative body; but there was no precedent in any colony for an elective upper chamber, and the present government recommended that the members of the upper chamber of the central legislature should be appointed by the crown during pleasure. The lower chamber was to be elective, the franchise for the constituency the same as that for the provincial councils. The number of members for the upper chamber of the central legislature was to be not less than ten nor more than fifteen, at the discretion of the governor-in-chief; that of the lower chamber not less than twenty-five nor more than forty. Five years was intended to be the duration of the central parliament, the acts of which would override those of the provincial legislatures. It was proposed that there should be a civil list; that 12,000*l.* a year should be retained, out of which the salaries of the superintendents should be paid, and that 7000*l.* a year should be reserved for native purposes. All arrangements respecting the town lands to be in the hands of the general legislature. It could not be expected, he observed, that such a measure as this could be final, and changes would be introduced into the bill whereby the local legislature should have full power, from time to time, to enact changes in the constitution with the consent of the crown. It was for the house to decide whether this bill came within the category of "necessary measures;" he believed it did; but if the house was of a different opinion, the alternative was, it being highly inexpedient to allow the act of 1846 to revive, to suspend that constitution for another year.—Sir R. INGLIS suggested certain questions, and was of opinion that this was not quite one of the "necessary measures."—Mr. GLADSTONE had not the slightest hesitation in considering that the measure embodied most valuable principles, and believed it would be hailed with gratitude by the colonists.—Mr. V. Smith, Mr. Hume, Sir W. Molesworth, and other members made cursory remarks upon the measure, which Lord J. RUSSELL trusted would not meet with any considerable opposition, being willing himself to give it every assistance.—After a few words of reply and

explanation by Sir J. Pakington, leave was given to bring in the bill.

On the order of the day for going into committee on the *Militia Bill*, Mr. COBDEN moved, as an amendment, that a return of the effective force of the royal navy on the 31st of March last be laid upon the table, and that the consideration of the bill in committee be postponed until after the production of such return. He contended that our navy ought to be sufficient to protect the country against an invasion. From the only source to which he had access, he found that we had 500 vessels of war, building, in ordinary, or afloat. He could not ascertain the real amount of our naval force at home; but he thought there was great waste in keeping large ships of war upon distant stations, under the pretext of protection of our commerce. If we were really in danger of an invasion, why should nineteen vessels of war be kept in the Mediterranean? But the danger was ideal. There was no instance of a war between two great nations without ample warning and time of preparation; and it was improbable and inconsistent with the interests of the ruler of France to suppose he would depart from the recognised principles of international usage. Mr. Cobden urged the difficulties of conveying over an invading army, especially in the face of a steam fleet larger than could be furnished by the whole continent together, as well as the military facilities provided by our railroads. He did not believe, he said, that any man of common sense out of the house had more apprehension of invasion now than two years ago; but if the country was really afraid, let our ships be brought home before we were made a military people.—The amendment was seconded by Mr. ANDERSON, who dwelt at some length upon the resources to be found in our mercantile steam navy.—Captain BOLDBRO said the amendment pretended one thing and meant another. The information could be got from the "Navy List;" the real object was delay. He examined various suggestions auxiliary to the bill, and assigned several reasons why the regular army should be increased by 10,000 or 15,000 men.—Mr. BRIGHT maintained that the object of the motion was not delay, but to place before the house facts which would enable it to decide upon the expediency of any further expenditure upon our military establishments. The bill, he contended, was hostile to the industry of the country, injurious to freedom, and there was no interest which the country cared for that would not be prejudiced by a militia, unless it was proved to be absolutely necessary to the safety of the country. If there was a new danger, where was it? Had the people of France or their ruler shown any symptom of a wish to pick a quarrel with us? The French people approved of their present ruler because his policy afforded a security for repose, which would not last an instant if he declared war with, or attacked piratically, this country, for which he could have no motive, while the motive of self-preservation would suffice to hold his hand. No case, therefore, had been made out for the bill, which grew out of a panic, the worst possible ground for legislation.—Mr. WHITESIDE, in reply to Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, observed that no apprehension was entertained of the French people, who might be satisfied with their ruler; but it was, as declared by Mr. Pitt in defending the militia bill of 1802, because the French were essentially a military power, and that power was centred in one man. He vindicated the policy of this measure, which was, he said, essentially peaceful, and intended solely for self-defence.—The debate was adjourned.

On Tuesday, May the 4th, the adjourned debate was resumed, and a great number of members joined in it. Sir DE LACY EVANS maintained that our regular military force had been underrated, and that of France over-estimated. He argued that the French available army did not amount to more than 100,000 fighting men, without allowing for indispensable garrisons; he did not believe that France could spare more than 30,000 men for foreign service. He still thought the force proposed to be raised an illusory one; but of the two bills he preferred that of the late government.—Major BERESFORD, in reply to Sir De Lacy Evans, showed from official returns that he had exaggerated the amount of regulars we could bring into the field to repel an invasion; that the infantry and artillery numbered 34,143, or

deducting one-fifth for non-efficient, and adding 7750 pensioners, 34,280 rank and file; that 28,000 must be deducted for garrisons and dock-yards, which would leave available for field service only 6280, and adding 4284 cavalry and sappers and miners, 10,564 rank and file only to meet an invading force. In the present feeling of the house, an increase of the regular army could not be maintained; whilst in point of expense, 15,000 regular troops would cost 600,000*l.* the first year, and 525,000*l.* afterwards, whereas the estimate for the whole cost of the militia was only 350,000*l.* the first year. There was every chance, he observed, that this species of force would prove very available, and so far from superseding the regular army, it would be, as it had been, a nursery for it.—Lord PALMERSTON, having been frequently alluded to in the course of the debate, would say a few words. He thought an invasion was possible, to use no stronger word, and that it was the duty of the country to guard against such an event. The country would judge between his opponents and himself, but, if he were wrong, and his advice were followed, the country was safe—while, if they were wrong, and their advice were followed, the country was in danger. They, knowing nothing of war, or the means by which it was carried on, wished to lull the country into a false security. Now, he had heard that the late King of the French, subsequently to the Tahiti dispute (at which time the present preachers of peace were the loudest advocates for intervention), stated that his generals had pledged themselves, if war broke out, to be in London within a week. After explaining away various misconstructions that had been placed upon language he had previously used in reference to this question, he said that he had the greatest respect for sincere opinions, such as were at the bottom of the opposition to this bill, and which, though they had not been broadly stated in the debate, had been set forth in a pamphlet which he quoted, and which he described as proving that it was our duty as Christians to allow this country to be conquered by France. He excited the loudest cheering by citing a passage from that pamphlet, in which the writer urged that though the French might come, plunder London, sweep all our institutions away, and drive the Queen into exile, the "mills" would go on, men would stand behind "counters," and "money would be made;" and, finally, this glorious example of Christian humility and forbearance on our part, would actually shame the French into going away and sending back the money of which they might have plundered us. He firmly believed that this work was written in serious and sober earnest, and that it emanated from a party from whom much of the opposition to this bill proceeded. The government had to deal with two alternatives, one (as suggested by the party he had referred to) a voluntary submission on the part of this country to its conquest by France, as a just retribution for engaging in war; or, if we were still wedded to the ancient notions of self-vindication, to provide the means by which invasion might be successfully resisted.—Colonel THOMPSON suggested that the authors of "Punch" had written the pamphlet quoted by Lord Palmerston, but was quite certain that no considerable body in the country concurred in such crude views.—Mr. DRUMMOND said that the printer of the pamphlet in question was a candidate to succeed Mr. Fox Maule in the representation of Perth.—Lord J. RUSSELL opposed the amendment, but protested against Lord Palmerston's statement that this bill would make the country safe. He did not believe that such would be the result of the measure, but thought that any of the other means to which government might have resorted for the defence of the nation would have been preferable to this bill. Contending that the measure would not provide a force ready to repel even a small invasion, he disclaimed the party motives with which he had been charged, and utterly denied that his conduct would bear such an interpretation. Upon a division, the amendment was rejected by 285 against 76. A second division took place upon the original question, that the Speaker leave the chair, which was carried by 219 against 85.—Mr. Bright, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. M. Gibson, Mr. Wakley, Mr. Hume, and Mr. Cobden, still struggled for some

respite, entreating that a "long day" should be fixed for going seriously into committee; Mr. BRIGHT avowing the object of the postponement to be, "that the opinion of the country might be expressed for and against the measure."—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that Mr. BRIGHT's demand was "preposterous," and was only made to give time for "agitation."—This reading was warmly denied; and being adhered to somewhat peremptorily, Mr. CORBEN warned Mr. Disraeli not to indulge the tone he was falling into "towards those who, having been placed in frequent antagonism to him, on many occasions had shown him forbearance and consideration."—The struggle was still prolonged; and two more divisions were taken, in which the government numbers were 103 and 105, and those of the minority 31 and 29; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not give in. At nearly half-past two in the morning, it was at last fixed that the bill should be committed on Thursdays.

On Wednesday the 5th, the debate on the second reading of the *Irish Tenant Right Bill*, postponed from March last, was resumed. The bill was supported by Mr. Conolly, Mr. Monsell, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Reynolds; and opposed by Lord Naas, Sir W. Somerville, and Lord C. Hamilton. On a division the second reading was negatived by 167 against 57.

On Thursday the 6th, the house went into committee on the *Militia Bill*, upon the third clause, which repealed the provisions of the act of 1802, and subsequent acts relating to property qualifications of persons to be appointed officers, with certain exceptions. Mr. HUME moved the omission of the latter portion of the clause, with the view of repealing all the existing militia laws, and consolidating the whole law in the present act, in conformity with the title of the bill, which professed to be "a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the militia in England." This motion was opposed by Mr. WALPOLE, and after a very brisk debate, was negatived upon a division of 165 against 82.—Mr. M. GIBSON moved other amendments of the same clause, the effect of which was to abolish the property qualification of deputy-lieutenants and officers in the militia of the rank of major and upwards.—Mr. WALPOLE objected to this proposition, but consented to add a proviso at the end of the clause, that the qualification should not be restricted to real estate. This compromise was agreed to. On the 7th clause, which prescribed the number of men to be raised, Mr. CHARTERS, meaning to propose the omission of the compulsory clauses, suggested that, instead of 80,000 men, 40,000 be raised to serve five years, each man to be drilled fifty-six days in the first year, and ten days in each of the four succeeding years; 20,000 to be called out in 1852, 10,000 in 1853, and 10,000 in 1854.—Mr. WALPOLE resisted this alteration, which would counteract the design of the bill, that of having a sufficient body of men to meet an emergency. With respect to the compulsory clauses, he added, it was his intention to propose that the 16th clause, which authorised her Majesty to order a ballot where men cannot be raised by voluntary enlistment, should not come into force until the 31st of December next, so that time would be afforded to ascertain how far the experiment of voluntary enlistment had succeeded, and the new parliament would have a full opportunity of stopping the ballot, if it was deemed unadvisable to have recourse to its machinery. This intimation diverted the discussion in a great degree from the 7th clause to the 16th, several members contending that it was so essential a change as to give a new character to the measure which would leave the proposed addition to our defensive force to accident, notwithstanding the plea of urgency. Mr. Walpole, on the other hand, maintained that it was only carrying out what the government had announced from the first, namely, that the ballot should not be put in operation until it had been ascertained that voluntary enlistment had failed. The committee divided upon the question of filling up the blank in the 7th clause with the words "eighty thousand," which was affirmed by 237 against 106.

On Friday the 7th, the house, in committee, proceeded with the *Militia Bill*, and the consideration of clause 7

was resumed. On the proposal for filling up the blank in the clause with "fifty thousand men" for the first year, Sir E. COLEBROOKE opposed it, intending to move the insertion of a smaller number. After some discussion the committee divided, and the numbers were—for the original motion, 135; against it, 61; majority, 74.—Mr. BRIGHT moved a proviso to the clause, to the effect that punishments in the militia should not extend to flogging or other corporal punishments.—Mr. BERRSFORD, in opposing the motion, said that corporal punishments had almost entirely ceased in the army; but still he could not agree to the propriety of abolishing the power of resorting to that mode of punishment, should the necessity for it arise, whether the offenders were militia men or belonged to the regular army. A lengthened discussion ensued, terminating in a division, on which the numbers were—for the proviso, 92; against it, 199: majority, 107. The clause was then agreed to.

The *Property and Income Tax Bill*, which had been read a second time the previous night, was passed *pro forma* through committee.

On Monday the 10th, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved for leave to bring in a Bill to *Assign the four seats in Parliament in lieu of St. Albans and Sudbury*. He considered this to be one of the measures of paramount importance which ministers deemed it necessary to take before the dissolution. The proposition of ministers was that two of the vacant seats should be awarded to the West Riding of Yorkshire, and the other two to the southern division of Lancashire. Mr. GLADSTONE opposed the motion, contending that the measure was unnecessary, and that its introduction was peculiarly inexpedient on the eve of a dissolution of parliament. On a division the motion was negatived by 234 against 148.

On Tuesday the 11th, Mr. SPOONER moved for a select committee to inquire into the *System of Education carried on at the College of Maynooth*. He charged the Maynooth system with being injurious to society, with creating immorality, and with being completely subversive of the true principles of allegiance. He maintained that the original grant to the college was in itself bad in principle, and that all the forebodings of those who had opposed it had been fully realised; that the system taught there was antagonistical to the word of God, and a national sin, and, as such, it was his earnest wish to see the grant refused. He examined the doctrines which appeared from the books used at the college to be inculcated at Maynooth, in respect to oaths and their obligations; to morality and honesty, including the distinctions between mortal sins and venial sins; to the supremacy of the Romish ecclesiastical law above the constitutional law, and its authority over even heretics; to contracts with heretics, and to confession. In order to prove the encroaching spirit of the Romish church, Mr. Spooner contrasted the declarations made and pledges given by its clergy in Ireland previous to Roman catholic emancipation—whereby many protestants had been reconciled to that measure—with its recent pretensions, and he pledged himself if a committee were granted, to show that the disloyalty, and even rebellion which had appeared in Ireland, might be traced to the teaching and the doctrines inculcated at Maynooth. The Marquis of BLANDFORD seconded the motion. Mr. ANSTEX moved, by way of amendment, a resolution that the house will resolve itself into a committee to consider of a bill for repealing the Maynooth endowment act, and all other acts for charging the revenue in aid of ecclesiastical or religious purposes, arguing that neither Roman catholics nor protestants could, without a violation of religious liberty, be taxed for the support of institutions connected with a faith to which they did not belong. The withdrawal of these grants would remove from the house questions of polemics, for which it was a very unsuitable arena.—The amendment was seconded by Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, who, while opposed to the original motion, did not mean to record his admiration of the endowment of Maynooth, to which he was as little friendly as Mr. Spooner; but he would not join in an attack upon a small endowment to a Roman catholic college whilst the large endowments of the Protestant church were left untouched.—

Mr. WALPOLE, on the part of the government, wished to make an early statement of the course they meant to pursue. All agreed that this question, whether regarded in a political or a social or a moral aspect, was one of the utmost difficulty. Mr. Spooner's motion, for an inquiry into the system of education at the college of Maynooth, raised the question whether the grant had or had not answered its purpose. There were two arguments against inquiry—first, that the question was concluded in 1845, and ought not to be reopened; second, that the grant itself was so vicious in principle that it ought to be repealed at once. With regard to the first, since parliament had made the grant, parliament had a right to recall it. When the grant was made perpetual in 1845, Sir R. Peel stated two grounds for the measure—first, the poverty hanging over the college; second, that it would break up a formidable confederacy in Ireland against the British government and British connection. There were three purposes for which the grant was made—first, to secure a well-educated, loyal, and domestic priesthood; second, to provide funds for their instruction; and third, to break up by generosity what Sir R. Peel termed a "formidable confederacy." Then, had these, or any of these, purposes been answered? This was a question which the house was bound to consider before it determined whether or not this committee should be granted. Had there been a well-educated, loyal, domestic priesthood in Ireland? Up to a certain time there may have been; but there were strong reasons for believing that many of the priesthood educated at this college were members of different orders who do not remain a domestic priesthood. Had not the character of the priesthood changed of late years? He feared that instead of confining themselves, as they ought to do, to the supporting of their own religion, they had, in fact, assumed an aggressive character. He alluded to what had taken place since Dr. Cullen had come into Ireland. If the facts were so, measures should be taken against an application of the public money to any other than its legitimate purpose—to provide a well-educated, loyal, and domestic priesthood. The grant had been intended by Sir R. Peel as a messenger of peace; it was made in a liberal and confiding spirit; and he would ask any man if the system of education at Maynooth had had the tendency designed by Sir R. Peel. These were the reasons which induced the government to think that some inquiry ought to be made—namely, that the conditions of the grant had not been adequately fulfilled, and that the objects for which it was made no longer existed to the same extent. He thought, therefore, that the country had a right to ask, and that the house was bound to consent to an inquiry, and by the results of that inquiry his own opinion would abide.—Mr. OSBORNE denounced this as a mean attempt to raise a "No Popery" cry with which to go to the hustings. The object was to destroy the Roman Catholic religion, and he would not be a party to a one-sided attack upon that faith, and a direct insult upon the Roman Catholics of Ireland. The house ought not to have its time wasted and its passions excited by such subjects.—Mr. GLADSTONE said that although he did not contend that parliament was bound by any compact to maintain the grant, yet, unless it could be shown that the objects of the endowment had failed, and the expectations entertained at the time of the endowment had been frustrated, both prudence and justice demanded the maintenance of the grant; and it appeared to him that such failure could not be shown. If the endowment was to be withdrawn, the parliament that withdrew it must be prepared to enter upon the whole subject of the reconstruction of ecclesiastical arrangements in Ireland. He did not say whether this would be right or wrong, but it was the necessary as well as the logical consequence of the course upon which the house was entering. No serious case had, in his opinion, been made out to prove the failure of the endowment; not a single student had left Maynooth since the enlargement of the grant; he should, therefore, have preferred the delay of the inquiry until a later period. At the same time, when a motion of this kind was made, he thought the friends of Maynooth should cast no obstacles in its way. Prudence and justice, however, prescribed limits to the inquiry. The mover and his seconder looked upon inquiry simply as a means of establishing certain charges upon which they had

made up their minds, as a step to the repeal of the grant. But a select committee appointed upon the motion of gentlemen expressing such sentiments could not be intrusted with such an inquiry. It was a national question, and in all preceding cases had been dealt with by the executive government, and he proposed that this inquiry should be conducted under the immediate superintendence and responsibility of the executive government.—Mr. GRATTAN and Mr. HUME opposed the motion.—Lord PALMERSTON stated the grounds upon which he intended to vote against both the original motion and the amendment. He thought that the house was entering upon an unwise course, and which, if the motion should be agreed to, must either end in a nullity or lead to dangerous consequences. No ground had been laid for the motion, the object of which was to withdraw the grant—a course which would not abolish ultramontane influence in Ireland, but on the contrary, would force the Irish priesthood to seek education abroad. He believed the motion had arisen from feelings out of doors, which had unfortunately been aroused amongst the protestants of this country by what he should never shrink from characterising as the aggressive and unjustifiable proceedings of the court of Rome. But let not the house visit this act upon the catholic youth of Ireland intended for the ministry, which would be as impolitic as it was unjust. It appeared to him that the motion was one of vengeance, and if so, it was at variance with all sound principles of national policy, and on that ground he resisted it.—The debate was adjourned until that day week.

On Wednesday the 12th, the debate on Mr. M. Gibson's three resolutions concerning the *Paper Duty*, the *Newspaper Stamp Duty*, and the *Advertisement Duty*, adjourned from the 22nd of April, was resumed. Mr. COWAN explained the nature of the restrictions peculiarly applicable to the manufacture of paper; the tendency of which, he said, was to obstruct improvements. The excise duty fell with great severity upon certain branches of this manufacture—cards, boards, boxes, and packages for British articles exported—and the vexatious processes of supervision occasioned a further outlay. But for the depressing and crushing effect of these duties and restrictions, the paper manufacture would have attained a far greater extension than it now had.—Mr. GLADSTONE said, although he should be heartily glad when the time came at which the duty on paper could be repealed, on the present occasion such a proposal could not be entertained. There were, however, so many interesting circumstances connected with this duty that it was a question which might be very usefully discussed in the house. One branch of the trade particularly deserved its attention—namely, the consumption of paper in the printing of literary works. A most important struggle was going on in the book trade, and though it would be very unjust at present to bear hard upon publishers and booksellers, who had consented to refer the subject to the judgment of certain distinguished personages, he must say, it was a great evil that the cost of books should be raised so much above what might be termed the natural price; and the whole state of the book market of this country was a disgrace to it. Monopoly and combination had been so long applied to this trade as nearly to reduce it to its minimum. With the exception of the works of certain highly esteemed and distinguished authors, the sale of what were called new publications, in an enormous majority of cases, scarcely ever exceeded 500 copies, and the great mass did not pay expenses. What was the consequence? The sale of such new publications was limited in a great measure to circulating libraries and book-clubs, which were ingenious expedients to mitigate the evil of the high prices of books. The effect of this system was to raise artificially the cost of printing, and to interfere generally with the natural play of supply and demand, whilst it gave encouragement to piratical practices. If the paper duty were taken off, we ought to be the cheapest producers and largest consumers of books in the world, whereas now the demand was narrower and the prices of books were higher in this than in any other country.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave an exposition of his official duty in relation to prosecutions for evasion of the stamp duties, and of the

proceedings in the case of the 'Household Narrative of Current Events.'—The other members who spoke on the resolutions before the house were, Mr. Mowatt, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. McGregor, Mr. Ricardo, Mr. Hume, and Mr. Wakeley, in favour of all the resolutions; Sir William Clay particularly in support of the last two of the three resolutions, respecting the advertisement-duty and the stamp-duty. Mr. Ker Seymour, who had formerly supported the resolutions, now withheld his vote for them, only on the ground of the particular financial juncture. The house divided on each resolution separately. The first proposition, the abolition of the paper-duty, was negatived by 195 to 107; the second, proposing the abolition of the stamp-duty, was negatived by 199 to 100; the third, proposing the abolition of the advertisement-duty, was negatived by 181 to 116.

On Friday the 14th, Mr. MASTERMAN asked the government if they had any measure to prevent the *Desertion of Seamen in Australia*. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON stated, that the most assiduous attention had been directed to this important subject. At the port of Melbourne, on the 6th of January, there were thirty-five vessels, with crews of 816 persons, of whom no fewer than 478 had deserted. Ministers had resolved to assist the colonial governments by sending some military to their aid. Two service companies of infantry would be stationed at Sydney, and four at Melbourne; and a man-of-war would be accorded to the port of Melbourne, as a most effectual restraint on the desertion of the crews.

The *Militia Bill* was discussed in committee, and several clauses were carried on divisions.

On Monday the 17th, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER communicated to the house the result of the investigation which her Majesty's government had undertaken to make with reference to the case of the *Rer. Mr. Bennet, the Vicar of Frome*. The crown officers had reported that her Majesty had no means of making an effectual inquiry into the circumstances of the case; that if a commission issued it would not be possible to compel the production of evidence; and that there might be a risk of contravening the bill of rights if the commission assumed the character of a court of ecclesiastical inquiry. Irrespective of the legal opinion of the law officers, her Majesty's government viewed with great apprehension the course they had been urged to adopt, and they had felt that, if a person had offended against the law, it would be of no advantage to attempt to vindicate it by illegal means. They were satisfied, moreover, that, under the law as it stood, there existed a sufficient remedy; that by the clergy discipline act, it was open to any parishoner of Frome to appeal to the bishop of the diocese, who, if a *prima facie* case should be made out, might institute a judicial inquiry. Where a legal remedy was in existence which had not been appealed to by those who complained of a grievance, nothing could be more unwise than to have recourse to any unusual course. The government, therefore, being advised that there is a legal remedy, under the existing law, if duly invoked by those who complained of a grievance, were of opinion that those who complained should seek redress in the mode provided by the law.—Mr. HORSMAN gave notice that he should on the following day move for a commission of inquiry into the facts he had laid before the house in this case upon a former occasion.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, that where means of redress were available under the existing law, they should always be exhausted before extraordinary means were resorted to. As the government had been advised, there had been nothing illegal in the course pursued by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, though that would not preclude the parishioners of Frome from taking further measures.—Mr. GLADSTONE was ready to show, at the proper time, that the bishop of Bath and Wells had acted within the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

The house, in committee, proceeded with the *Militia Bill*, and several clauses were agreed to.

On Wednesday the 19th, the adjourned debate on the second reading of the *Colonial Bishops' Bill* was resumed, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON objected to the bill on various grounds. He could not doubt, he said, that Mr.

Gladstone's object was to place the church of England in the colonies upon the same footing as other religious denominations; but he believed, if carried out, its effects would be, first, to exalt the church of England in the colonies into a state of dominance; secondly, to break it up into small separate churches, and thirdly, to destroy the supremacy of the crown, and even to overrule all legislation, imperial and colonial. The last clause introduced an important alteration of our ordination service by dispensing with the oath of supremacy—the first attempt ever made to enable persons to hold ecclesiastical offices in the church of England without taking that oath. He might be told that the supremacy of the crown in ecclesiastical matters did not extend to the colonies; but this doctrine would be repugnant to the statute 1st Elizabeth and to the express words of the Quebec act. Mr. Gladstone had rested his case, Sir John remarked, upon demands made by the colonies themselves, but had not cited a single application for the passing of such a bill, or for separating from the church of England, or for renouncing the crown's supremacy; whereas he (Sir John) could show a contrary desire on their part; and with that view he read extracts from memorials and resolutions transmitted from different colonies in Australia and Tasmania. With these facts and views, he could not consent to the further progress of a bill involving such grave considerations. He would, even as a private citizen, be no party to the breaking up of the church of England into branches, or the impugning the supremacy of the crown which, he believed, was one of the surest guarantees for the religious liberty we enjoyed. He intreated Mr. Gladstone to abandon the bill, and moved that the house proceed to the order of the day.—After some discussion Mr. Gladstone said that he would not press the bill to a division, and the amendment for passing to the next order of the day was agreed to.

On the next order, for the resumption of the debate upon the *Grant to Maynooth College*, which Mr. NEWDEGATE (in the absence of Mr. Spooner) proposed to defer to the 16th of June, an animated conversation took place, in which Lord J. RUSSELL characterised the whole proceeding as a mere mockery. He was not, he said, opposed to a fair and well-conducted inquiry, but not into the grounds upon which the grant was made; and the inquiry should be conducted in the mode pointed out by the act, or by a royal commission. He complained that the government, instead of throwing the subject open, did not pronounce a decided opinion upon it. If they were prepared to withdraw the grant, let them do so; if to maintain it, they should not excite public feeling in relation to the question.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the government were not prepared to abrogate the grant. The motion had been brought forward upon grounds which did not meet his concurrence, and Mr. Walpole, while admitting that under the circumstances an inquiry should take place, had said it ought to be limited to seeing whether the objects of the institution had been fulfilled. Although a committee of that house was not the course he (Mr. Disraeli) should have recommended, he did not think it was the duty of the government to advise her Majesty to issue a royal commission.

On Thursday the 20th, the house proceeded in committee with the *Militia Bill*. Many clauses were discussed and agreed to, and after reaching the last but one the chairman reported progress.

On Friday the 21st, the *Militia Bill* passed through committee, and the house having resumed, Monday next was fixed for the third reading of the bill.

On the question of the second reading of the *New Zealand Government Bill*, Sir W. MOLESWORTH opposed the bill, as being a Brobdingnagian measure, about to be applied to the government of a Lilliputian colony. He objected to almost all the details of the plan, which he contended would introduce nothing but confusion into the colony.—Mr. ADDERLEY supported the bill, which he hoped might be passed with as little delay as possible.—Mr. VERNON SMITH contended that a bill, involving so many important details, could not be properly discussed during the short period allotted to the existence of the present parliament.—Mr. E. DENISON thought if the details were to be arranged by the colony,

the bill might go on; but if the details were to be arranged by that house, there was no time for their discussion.—Mr. J. A. SMITH supported the second reading of the bill.—Mr. F. PEEL also gave his general support to the bill.—Mr. GLADSTONE said that, upon the whole, he thought the bill was highly creditable to the government; and although it had its faults, yet it gave such extensive powers of alteration to the legislature of the colony, that he would give it his most cordial support. If the bill was to be fought in committee, it would certainly be lost for this session, and it was not, therefore, his intention, having this alternative before him, to do more than suggest to the government the alterations which he thought it would be advisable to make in the details of the bill. The right hon. gentleman then stated various alterations, which he contended would be immense improvements to the measure.—Sir J. PAKINGTON believed the principles of the bill were sound and safe, and he therefore hoped to be able to carry it through parliament during the present session.—After some observations from Sir J. Graham, Mr. Mangles, Mr. Walter, and Mr. Anstey, the bill was read a second time.

On Monday the 24th, on the question of the day for the third reading of the *Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill*, Colonel SETHORP moved the rejection of the bill, which he characterised as inquisitorial and iniquitous. After a brief discussion, the motion was negatived by 281 against 6.—Mr. T. DUNCOMBE moved an amendment, to include counties and divisions of counties in the bill.—This amendment was supported by Captain Harris, Mr. P. Howard, Mr. S. Crawford, Mr. Hume, and Mr. Bright.—Lord J. RUSSELL said the reason why he had not included counties in the bill was, that although there had been many complaints of corruption in boroughs, he did not remember any case in which bribery had prevailed in a county or division of a county, and he thought it was objectionable to adopt such an amendment, which had not been proposed in the committee, at a moment, without previous notice.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER was not opposed to the principle of the suggestion, but his belief was that the county constituencies were pure, and that corruption in the boroughs had been very much exaggerated. It would be well, however, for the house not hastily to adopt a measure the machinery of which was designed for boroughs, and was inapplicable to counties. Was the house prepared to disfranchise a county?—The amendment was supported by Lord R. Grosvenor, Mr. Wakley, Mr. W. Williams, and Mr. Horsman, and opposed by Sir A. Cockburn and Mr. Floyer.—Upon a division, it was carried by 109 against 71.—Another amendment, proposed by Alderman SIDNEY, to include the universities, was also agreed to.—The bill as thus amended was then read a third time and passed.

On the next order for the committal of the *Poor Law Board Continuance Bill*, Lord D. STUART moved an instruction to the committee that they have power to make provision for amending the bill, with the view of moving in the committee a proviso that the jurisdiction of the Poor Law Board shall not extend to any parish the management of whose poor is regulated by a local act. He argued that it was not the intention of the framers of the original bill to include such parishes, and his motion was designed to mitigate unconstitutional powers which had been denounced by the present ministers when out of office. After some discussion, Lord D. Stuart's motion was negatived by 112 against 33; and the bill then passed through the committee.

On Tuesday, the 25th, the debate on the *Maynooth Grant* was continued, in the morning sitting, by Sergeant Murphy, the Attorney-General, Mr. Fortescue, and Mr. H. Drummond.—The debate was then adjourned to the evening sitting.—A motion of Lord Palmerston that the house should adjourn on the Derby day (Wednesday) was carried.—In the evening the house was counted out.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—April 26.—St. Alban's Disfranchisement Bill passed through Committee.

29th.—Sanitary State of London.—Lord Shaftesbury's Resolutions agreed to.

May 2nd.—Drainage of Land in Ireland, Select Committee agreed to.

4th.—Leave given Lord Lyndhurst to bring in a Bill to repeal penal disqualifications.

11th.—Disabilities Repeal Bill passed through Committee.

11th.—Bishopric of Christchurch (New Zealand) Bill read a second time.—Capt. Warner's Inventions, Select Committee agreed to.

17th.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Bill read a second time.

18th.—Bishopric of New Zealand Bill, and Disabilities Repeal Bill, read a third time, and passed.

21st.—Jurisdiction of Equity Bill read a second time.—Common Law Jurisdiction Bill considered in Committee.

24th.—The Stock in Trade Bill and Highway Rates Bill read a third time and passed.—Common Law Procedure Amendment Bill, report ordered to be printed.—Property Tax Continuance Bill, read a second time.

25th.—Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill read a second time, and referred to a select committee.—Master in Chancery Abolition Bill passed through committee.—Stamp Duties (Ireland) Bill read a second time.—Improvement of Equity Jurisdiction Bill, and Property Tax Continuance Bill passed through committee.—Turnpike Roads (Ireland) Bill read a second time.

House of Commons.—April 27.—County Franchise, Mr. Locke King's motion negatived.

28th.—County Elections Bill, division against first reading.—Universities of Scotland Bill, second reading negatived.—Colonial Bishops Bill, debate on second reading adjourned to 19th of May.

29th.—Crystal Palace, Mr. Heywood's motion for a Committee negatived.—Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill read a third time, and passed.

30th.—Financial Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

June 3.—Leave given Sir J. Pakington to bring in Bill for Constitution to New Zealand.—Militia debate on Mr. Cobden's motion adjourned.

4th.—Militia, Mr. Cobden's motion negatived.

5th.—Tenant-right in Ireland, Mr. S. Crawford's Bill thrown out.

6th.—Militia Bill considered in Committee.

7th.—Militia Bill in Committee.—Property-tax Bill considered in Committee.—Proclamation for assembling Parliament Bill, in Committee.—County Elections Expenses Bill thrown out.

10th.—Forfeited Seats in House of Commons, Mr. E. Disraeli's motion for a Bill rejected.—Militia Bill further considered in Committee.—Law Officers' Salaries Bill read a first time.

11th.—Maynooth, debate on Mr. Spooner's motion for a Select Committee adjourned.

12th.—Qualification of Members, Mr. Tufnell's Bill withdrawn.—Mr. Gibson's Resolutions respecting Taxes on Knowledge negatived.

14th.—Militia Bill further considered in Committee.

17th.—Militia Bill further considered in Committee.—Encumbered Estates Act Continuance Bill read a first time.

18th.—No house.

19th.—Charitable Trusts Bill abandoned.—County Elections Polls Bill read a second time.

20th.—Militia Bill further considered in Committee.—Deserters from Foreign Ships Bill read a third time, and passed.—Metropolitan Interments Bill read a first time.

21st.—London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Bill read a third time, and passed.—Militia Bill passed through Committee.—New Zealand Government Bill read a second time.

24th.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill read a third time and passed.—Poor Law Board Continuance Bill, Lord D. Stuart's motion for an instruction to Committee negatived, and the bill passed through committee.

MEETINGS against the *Militia Bill* have been held throughout the country. In particular at Bury, Cambridge, Colechester, Derby, Darford, Faversham, Gateshead, Gloucester, Manchester, Neath, Sunderland, Sittingbourne, Lynington, Winchester, and Hythe. The meetings have been large and influential, and the resolutions against the measure have been unanimous.

A deputation, headed by the lord-mayor of Dublin, has presented a memorial to the lord-lieutenant of Ireland, "entreating the royal clemency in behalf of William Smith O'Brien and his companions in exile." The memorial was signed by nine peers, fifteen Catholic bishops, nineteen baronets, forty-two members of parliament, sixty-six deputy-lieutenants, two hundred and eighty-eight magistrates, eleven high sheriffs, upwards of five hundred dignitaries and clergymen of all denominations, the mayors of almost every provincial town in Ireland, the heads of the several professions, and about 10,000 other persons. The lord-lieutenant, in his reply, referred to the clemency and unusual indulgence which these criminals had already met with; and regretted that this lenity had not been attended with the effects which might have been reasonably expected, but

that "on the contrary (said his lordship) repeated attempts to escape have taken place—in one case with success; and that none of the persons on whose behalf my interference is solicited have expressed contrition for their crime, or manifested any sign of gratitude, or loyalty to the gracious Sovereign, whom they have so grievously offended, and to whose clemency some of them are indebted for their lives. Under these circumstances, I do not consider myself justified in recommending the prayer of the memorial to her Majesty's favourable consideration."

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

Two persons were brought before the Bow Street magistrate on the 8th, charged with *Writing threatening Letters to the Earl of Derby*. John Middleton, an elderly Irishman, who rendered service to government some years ago, by giving valuable evidence before a committee on Irish fisheries, and was rewarded in a manner which he deems insufficient, was charged with writing to Lord Derby, "Wo betide those who refuse me justice;" it appeared that he considered he was entitled to \$50,000, and had got but 200*l*. Being obviously of unsound mind, he was placed in kindly custody for the present.—William Stuart Sheridan, a former offender in the same way, was charged with a more distinct threat: he asked restitution to an office in the Excise, with a reminder of "the fate of the lamented Mr. Perceval." For his former threat, which was against Lord John Russell, he was held to bail: he was now sent to prison till he could find two good sureties for his keeping the peace during twelve months.

On the 10th inst., the Vice-Chancellor gave judgment, on the application of the lessee of her Majesty's Theatre, for an *Injunction to restrain Mdlle. Wagner from appearing at the Royal Italian Opera*, the case having been fully heard on several previous days (see 'Household Narrative' for April, page 87). The court held that the agreement of November last was binding; that the additional clause binding Mdlle. Wagner exclusively to her Majesty's Theatre, though not originally in the contract, had been subsequently acquiesced in and adopted; and that the stipulation for payment of 300*l*. was not a "condition precedent" necessary to be fulfilled at its precise day beforehand, but an independent clause, which was dispensed with by the consent of the parties themselves. The court was, therefore, of opinion, that there was nothing to justify the Wagners in throwing up their contract with Mr. Lumley, and making a new one with Mr. Gye, and that Mr. Lumley retained his right of action on the contract. On these grounds the injunction was continued. Notice of appeal was given by the defendants. The case was heard on the 26th, before the Lord Chancellor, who dismissed the appeal.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 12th, Thomas Cathie Wheeler was indicted for the *Murder of his Mother*, by cutting off her head. It was suggested by the counsel for the prosecution that the prisoner was not in a fit state of mind to plead, and that probably it would be a saving of the time of the court if that question were at once to be disposed of by hearing medical evidence upon the point. The prisoner was then placed at the bar. He gazed wildly round the court, and when the charge was read, he immediately called out in a loud voice "Not guilty." A variety of medical and other evidence was then given, which appeared fully to establish his insanity, and though he was aware of the offence of cutting his mother's head off, with which he was charged, he was unable to comprehend the effect of a plea of guilty or not guilty. The jury accordingly returned a verdict that the prisoner was of unsound mind, and therefore incompetent to plead. Upon this finding, the prisoner was ordered to be detained in safe custody during her Majesty's pleasure.

On the same day, Richard Ambler, professing to be a licensed surgeon, was tried for inveigling to his house a young woman, named Newberry, with the intention of *Violating her Person*. He was found guilty, and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Mrs. Chitty, the wife of a shopkeeper at Guildford, has, under the influence of a lunatic frenzy, *Murdered two of her young Children*. A grown-up son, hearing an alarming noise, ran into his mother's room, and found her battering the children's heads with a wooden mallet. It appeared at the inquest, that the poor woman's husband had become insane, and the misfortune had deranged her mind also. After she was arrested she attempted to strangle herself with a handkerchief; and she asked a man who was watching her, to "make away with her by striking her on the head with anything he could get at." The jury, as a matter of form, returned a verdict of wilful murder, and she was conveyed to prison.

At the Central Criminal Court on the 15th, George Terry, Joshua Tudgey, and George Cooper were tried for *Assaulting Eliza Coffield*. It appeared from the statement of the prosecutrix, an interesting looking young woman, that her father had been landlord of the Horseshoe and Magpie, in Clerkenwell, and having fallen into some difficulties he had all his goods sold off at the close of the last year, after which she was left in the house to keep possession. Some attempts were made to obtain possession, and get her out, but they not succeeding, Terry, who is a jobbing builder in Clerkenwell, came, accompanied with a dozen men, amongst whom were the two other prisoners, and, stating that they had been sent by the freeholder to make repairs, they, with a view of driving her out of the house, were guilty of the most brutal conduct. Under Terry's direction they took out the windows, took up the floors, cut down the stairs, and, under the pretence of cleaning the rooms, drenched the place so, that, to use her own expression, "the water for two days was up to her ankles." Day and night some of them were in the house. They abused her, threw water over her, bricks and pails of water down the chimney the moment she attempted to light a fire, opened the drains, and finally Mr. Terry so carried on the work of demolition that the house next door fell down. This not succeeding they had recourse to personal violence, and after pushing and driving her about, she was by those at the bar knocked down. Terry said, throw her anywhere. Tudgey said, knock her down. Tudgey threw her into the fireplace, and Terry threw a pail of water over her, and finally upon the last day of the riot Terry again came, and they ill-used a young man named Hardy, who was in the house with her. Terry knocked her down and kicked her. Her screams had attracted a great crowd, and some of the neighbours extorted her and took her fainting to the nearest surgeon's, under whose care she was for some time. The jury found them Guilty. Terry was sentenced to six and the others to four months' imprisonment and hard labour.

In the Westminster County Court, on the 15th, an action was tried at the evidence of Mr. Bayfus, a cabinet-maker, against the Hon. Thomas Hatten George Ferner, Lieutenant in the 2nd Life Guards, for 50*l*., due on the *Defendant's Acceptance*. On the part of the plaintiff it was stated that he had taken the bill in the course of his business, and upon its arriving at maturity, applied for payment, when he was referred to the defendant's solicitor, who made certain proposals which were not acceded to, and the defendant then absented himself from England. Proceedings were subsequently taken by the plaintiff in the Brompton County Court, and were defeated by defendant's absence. Upon his return to England a fresh summons was issued, which, to the plaintiff's surprise, was met by a plea of "infancy." This plea was now brought forward, and evidence was given of the defendant's birth in 1832. The judge gave a verdict for the defendant, but without costs, and strongly reprobated the practice of young officers signing bills when under age, and thus exposing tradesmen to risk without any notice or intimation that the contract was bad.

By a Parliamentary return respecting the *Court of Chancery*, it appears that since 1845, when the 5th and 6th Victoria, cap. 103, came into force, 294,901*l*. 11*s*. 6*d*. has been paid for salaries and office expenses up to the 26th November last, and the enormous sum of 364,355*l*. 19*s*. 8*d*. as compensation for loss of offices. To the late four sworn clerks, appointed taxing-masters, no

less than 236,267. 11s. 3d. has been paid since 1845 to the 25th November last, as salary and compensation; and they are to have considerable annuities if they cease to hold the office, and after their death compensations for seven years are to be granted.

A shocking case of *Murder and Suicide* occurred at Chedley, in Staffordshire, on the 11th instant. Stephen Walker, a young farmer, courted Fanny Walker, the daughter of a publican. He was unsteady in his habits, and therefore the girl was sent away from home for a time. After her return, Stephen went to the house, but was not allowed to see her. He went away angry, and returned with a gun in his hand. Fanny came down stairs and entered into conversation with him. On her objecting to his course of life, he snatched up the gun, and pointing it at her, said, "I will now show you what I want." The mother screamed, and got between them, pushed him out of the passage into the road, and bolted the door. He ran to the window, and thrust the muzzle of the gun through one of the panes; the mother took hold of it, exclaiming, "Don't shoot Fanny; shoot me!"—and urging her daughter to run out of the room. The poor girl ran, but in her trepidation she could not unfasten the door. Just as she was passing out of the room, Stephen discharged the gun, and the contents lodged in her left side, just below the breast, killing her instantly. The murderer ran away into the fields, reloaded his gun, and shot himself through the head, dead on the spot. A coroner's jury have ascribed the murder and suicide to temporary insanity.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 15th, Felix M'Gee was tried for *Shooting Michael Collins*. There was a disagreement among the members of a Temperance Society at Westminster; M'Gee took possession of a room belonging to the society, locked the door, and, armed with two pistols and a cutlass, declared no one should enter. His brother members forced open the door; M'Gee presented a pistol, but it missed fire; the second he discharged, and lodged some fifty shots in Collins's abdomen. When arrested, M'Gee had reloaded the pistol. Collins was in danger for some time. The jury convicted on a count charging an intent to do grievous bodily harm. The intemperate teetotaler was sentenced to be transported for ten years.

Four boys were indicted under "Lord Campbell's Act" for a felony, as having done an act tending to *Endanger the Lives of Passengers on the Great Western Railway*. On several occasions a gate had been removed at an occupation-crossing at Southall; cattle might in consequence have strayed on to the line, and perilled the safety of trains. The place was watched, and the prisoners at the bar were seen to take the gate down and lay it in a field. Baron Platt stopped the case, as he did not think the offence came within the provisions of the act:—the boys had put the gate into a field, not upon the rails; if a cow had strayed upon the line and a disaster resulted, the cow, not the boys, would have been the cause of the mischief. Mr. Clarkson said he expected this objection; but a magistrate had committed the prisoners, and the company felt bound to prosecute. The judge remarked that the boys richly deserved the imprisonment they had suffered; though they escaped under this act of parliament, they must not think that they were not amenable under some other law.

A dreadful *Murder* was committed at Hull in the night of the 21st. The body of a respectable young man named Mapletorpe, a clerk in the house of Messrs. Thomas and Co., merchants, was found lying on the edge of a ditch adjoining a piece of waste ground near his father's residence. Marks of a scuffle on the pavement, and the dragging of a body across the road, were perceivable, showing that the poor youth had been attacked within a few feet of his own threshold. The external appearances of the body indicated that death had been occasioned by suffocation, no marks of violence being observed, but some scratches, as of human nails, upon each cheek. A gold watch which the deceased carried had been torn from his waistcoat pocket, and his money to the amount of about 112. had also been taken from his person. Two men, named John Snape and James Smith, were apprehended on suspicion and brought before the magistrates, by whom, after an examination, they have been remanded.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

A WHOLE party of British missionaries have *Perished by Starvation* in Patagonia. They left this country in the autumn of 1850, and landed at Picton Island, Tierra del Fuego, on the 6th December following. Rumours that they had perished by the hands of the natives reached this country many months since; and Captain Moorshead, of her Majesty's ship *Dido*, was instructed to ascertain their fate on his way to the Pacific station. The party consisted of Commander Gardiner of the Royal Navy, superintendent; Mr. Maidment, catechist; John Erwin, carpenter; John Badcock, John Bryant, and John Pearce, Cornish fishermen; and they went out in the bark *Ocean Queen*, under the auspices of the Patagonian Missionary Society. Captain Moorshead, of the *Dido*, arrived at Picton Island, in search of them, on the 19th January last. For some time no traces of the missionaries were found; but just as the explorers were about to reembark, some writing was espied on a rock across a river, which proved to be the words, "Go to Spaniard Harbour;" and other rocks were marked with similar words. Hastening to Spaniard Harbour, they saw on the beach a boat turned upside down; and on coming near to it, they found two dead bodies, which were identified by scattered books and papers near them, as those of Captain Gardiner and Mr. Maidment. On one of the papers was written legibly, but without date—

"If you will walk along the beach for a mile and a half, you will find us in the other boat, hauled up in the mouth of a river at the head of the harbour, on the south side. Delay not; we are starving."

Hurrying to the point indicated, they found the wreck of a second boat, and the remains of two more bodies, which they suppose to have been those of Mr. Williams, surgeon, and John Pearce, Cornish fisherman, other members of the expedition. The papers showed that all the others had died of starvation before these survivors, and had been buried by them, near to where the survivors were found. The tale of their sufferings was told in the diary of Captain Gardiner, the superintendent, kept by him with tolerable regularity till near the hour of his death—the last words of it being scarcely legible from the weakness of the hand which wrote them. A few extracts show the nature of their trials, and the pure religious spirit with which they were encountered. Their provisions seem to have failed through being shortened by wreck or injury of their boats, and from the first their boats were the only shelter to them from the severe climate and the inhospitable natives whom they went out to convert. The place of refuge, Picton Island, seems to have been a desert spot, presenting the sole recommendation of rocky caverns, which could be made available for shelter against the storms. The first extracts are compiled by Captain Moorshead, from the papers found on the beach and in the caverns:—

"April 23. They have provisions enough to last for two months, but some are very low; and a fox pilfering from them, they kill him by putting a piece of pork opposite the muzzle of a gun attached by a string to the trigger; and, as they can only issue pork three times a week, they dine off this fox, and salt the remainder; altogether they appear to have been very frugal with their supplies. I find a notice of five large fish caught, and an account kept of the number of ducks shot, as, their powder having been left on board the ship, and a flask and a half being all they have, they keep it for emergencies.

"July 4. Having been seven weeks on short allowance, and latterly even this having been curtailed, the party are utterly helpless. Everything found in the shape of food is cooked and eaten—a penguin, a shag, a half-devoured fish washed upon the shore, and even the salted fox, washed out of the cavern, is thrown up again on the beach and used for food. Captain Gardiner writes—'We have now remaining half a duck, about one pound of salt pork, the same quantity of damaged tea, a very little rice (a pint), two cakes of chocolate, four pints of peas, to which I may add six mice. The mention of this last item in our list of provisions may startle some of our friends, should it ever reach their ears; but, circumstanced as we are, we partake of them with a relish, and have already eaten several of them. They are very tender, and taste like rabbit.'

"July 22. They are reduced to living on mussels, and feel the want of food; and sometimes the cravings of hunger is distressing to them. Captain Gardiner writes—'After living on

mussels for a fortnight, I was compelled to give them up, and my food is now mussel-broth and the soft part of impets."

"July 28, Captain Gardiner writes of the party in the other boat—"They are all extremely weak and helpless; even their garden-seeds, used for broth, are now all out."

"August 14, Captain Gardiner takes to his bed; but a rock-weed is discovered, which they boil down to a jelly, and find nourishment from.

"August 23, John Erwin dies.

"August 26, J. Bryant dies; and Mr. Maidment buries them both in one grave.

"John Pearce, the remaining boatman, is cast down at the loss of his comrades, and wandering in his mind; but Mr. Williams is somewhat better."

The succeeding extracts are verbatim from Captain Gardiner's own notes:—

"Sept. 3. Wishing if possible to spare him (Mr. Maidment) the trouble of attending on me, and for the mutual comfort of all, I purposed, if practicable, to go to the river and take up my quarters in the boat. This was attempted on Saturday last. Feeling that without crutches I could not possibly effect it, Mr. Maidment most kindly cut me a pair (two forked sticks); but it was with no slight exertion and fatigue, in his weak state. We set out together, but soon found that I had not strength to proceed, and was obliged to return before reaching the brook on our own beach. Mr. Maidment was so exhausted yesterday that he did not rise from his bed until noon, and I have not seen him since; consequently I tasted nothing yesterday. I cannot leave the place where I am, and know not whether he is in the hody, or enjoying the presence of the gracious God whom he has served so faithfully.

"Thursday, Sept. 4. There is now no room to doubt that my dear fellow-labourer has ceased from his earthly toils, and joined the company of the redeemed in the presence of the Lord, whom he served so faithfully. Under these circumstances, it was a merciful providence that he left the boat, as I could not have removed the body.

"Friday, Sept. 5. Great and marvellous are the loving kindnesses of my gracious God unto me. He has preserved me hitherto, and for four days, although without bodily food, without any feelings of hunger or thirst."

These were the last entries of the nature of a diary—they were weakly and indistinctly written. But a note was found, dated the 6th, from Captain Gardiner to Mr. Williams, the surgeon; whose body was discovered with that of John Pearce at the other place:—

"My dear Mr. Williams,—The Lord hath seen fit to call home another of our little company. Our dear departed brother left the boat on Tuesday afternoon, and has not since returned. Doubtless he is in the presence of his Redeemer, whom he served faithfully. Yet a little while, and though . . . the Almighty to sing the praises . . . throne. I neither hunger nor thirst, though . . . days without food . . . Maidment's kindness to me . . . heaven.

"Your affectionate brother in

ALLEN F. GARDINER.

"September 6th, 1851."

Captain Moorshead is of opinion that Mr. Williams and John Pearce did not survive Captain Gardiner; and that none of the missionaries were alive after the 6th September. His report to Rear-Admiral Moresby, the Commander of the Pacific station, from whom the Admiralty has received the whole news, concludes with these remarks:

"I will offer no opinion on the missionary labour of Captain Gardiner and the party, beyond its being marked by an earnestness and devotion to the cause; but, as a brother officer, I beg to record my admiration of his conduct in the moment of peril and danger, and his energy and resources entitle him to high professional credit. At one time I find him surrounded by hostile natives and dreading an attack, yet forbearing to fire, and the savages, awe-struck and subdued by the solemnity of his party, kneeling down in prayer. At another, having failed to heave off his boat when on the rocks, he digs a channel under her, and diverts a fresh-water stream into it; and I find him making an anchor by filling an old bread-cask with stones, heaving it up and securing wooden crosses over the heads with chain."

The official comment on the mission itself is significant:

"Their lordships deeply deplore the fate of these devoted missionaries; but this lesson of experience will have its effect. The earnest application of sanguine minds for the propagation of Christianity must, in a climate like Cape Horn, first consider the locality where existence can be insured."

Mr. Gunning Sutton, a commander in the Royal Navy, brother of Sir Robert Gunning, has been *Accidentally Killed* at Knightsbridge. He was riding on Saturday evening, the 1st inst., with his daughter; as they left Hyde Park by Albert Gate, it was necessary

to draw up in the road to allow an omnibus to pass; Mr. Sutton's horse reared, threw his rider, and ran away. It was found that Mr. Sutton had been hurt in the abdomen; he gradually sank, and died on Tuesday morning. From an outward examination of the body, the surgeons had no doubt that the pelvis had been fractured behind the wound, most probably by a kick from the horse. The horse was a hired one: it had run away for some distance just before the accident. An inquest resulted in a verdict of "Accidental death." In running away, after having thrown Mr. Sutton, the horse knocked down a crossing-sweeper, and hurt him so badly, that it was necessary to take him to the hospital.

A court-martial of admirals and captains assembled under Rear-Admiral Prescott on board the Victory, on the 5th inst., to investigate the conduct of certain of the survivors from the wreck of the *Birkenhead*. The individuals presented formally for trial were Mr. R. B. Richards, master's assistant; J. Bowen and T. Dunn, able seamen; A. Stone, ordinary seaman; and John Ashbolt, stoker. The witnesses called were Thomas Coffin, who had the first middle watch on the night of the wreck; Thomas Daly, the first watch, and look-out man on the forecastle; Colour-Sergeant Drake, on the poop when the ship struck; John Archbold, gunner, in bed when the accident happened; and Mr. W. Culhane, assistant surgeon, in his cabin at the time. All of these witnesses were closely examined; but they did not state anything materially altering the main incidents already put before the public in the official reports forwarded to the Admiralty by the civil and naval authorities at the Cape of Good Hope. The proceedings were closed on the 7th, when a full and honourable acquittal was given.

The village of Alldreth, in Cambridgeshire, has suffered from a *Calamitous Fire*. It is supposed that the wadding of a gun fired at a sparrow set fire to the thatch of a cottage; thence the flames rapidly spread through the village. Two farm-steading, eleven cottages, and some out-buildings, were consumed.

At Soham, in the same county, the farm premises of Mr. Taylor (except the dwelling-house), with much agricultural produce, have been *Burnt*—altogether a loss of £2000,—in consequence of two Irish labourers having laid their jackets, containing their pipes with burning tobacco in them, under a straw-stack.

A man named Brooks was *Burnt to Death* at Walworth during the night of the 5th. He was employed to watch the brick-fields behind the Surrey Zoological Gardens. He had been left at his post in the evening, and next morning his dead body, partly consumed, was found lying at the top of a large brick-kiln which was burning furiously.

The schooner "Titania," the property of Robert Stephenson, Esq., was *Destroyed by Fire* in Cowes harbour on the 5th. The fire appears to have been occasioned by the over-heating of a flue.

Several fatal *Colliery Accidents* have taken place this month. A most frightful explosion occurred on the 10th at the Duffryn pit, in the valley of Aberdare, in Glamorganshire, and was attended with the loss of sixty-four lives. At four o'clock on the morning of the explosion, a careful investigation appears to have taken place, and the mine was reported free from gas. A few hours afterwards another fireman was sent down, who discovered symptoms of an approaching fall in a certain section of the mine. When the intelligence was conveyed to the agent above, orders were immediately given to a party to descend and use the necessary means to prevent the anticipated fall. This was about seven o'clock, and two hours afterwards a report was heard which gave token of the terrible tragedy which had occurred below. Mr. Skipley, the agent, descended by the winding shaft, and passed some poor wretches who had just escaped from the terrors of the explosion. At the bottom of the shaft eight of the men who had been despatched to prop up the roof were found dead. As he proceeded to grope his way, he next encountered a few half-suffocated men who were staggering to the mouth of the pit, if it might be found. He then found a heap of dead bodies, the one piled upon the other, scarcely at a hundred yards' distance from the pit. In trying to

escape, it would seem the people had fallen upon each other and blocked up the passage. A little further on—about fifty yards—Mr. Skipley and his companions came upon just such another pile as the first. The two together contained the bodies of about sixty men and children. A father and his two sons were found among one of the heaps of the dead. The poor man in his frantic eagerness and anxiety to save himself and his two sons, had clutched one under each arm, and thus had in vain sought to escape. Sixty-four persons have perished altogether, and twenty-eight were brought out alive, making the total number who were in the pit at the time of the explosion ninety-two. It appears that no blame can attach to any of the officials of the colliery. The coal worked here, however, is of a highly gaseous quality, inasmuch that numerous cargoes which have recently gone from the shipping port (Cardiff) have exploded, and destroyed the vessels bearing them.

On the same day that the explosion took place at Aberdare, a *Dreadful Calamity* occurred in the Gwendraeth Vale, situate near Pembrey, between Llanelly and Carmarthen, by which the lives of all the men in the colliery at the time, with one exception, were sacrificed. In the evening the colliers, to the number of about twenty-eight, were at work, and everything appeared to go on as usual, when, about ten o'clock at night, while busily engaged at their work, the water suddenly broke in upon them. The irruption appears to have been so sudden, that the poor people, with one exception, had no time to escape. The pit was almost instantaneously filled, and the men all drowned, with the exception of one man, who availed himself of the aid of the machinery in operation to effect his escape. It was supposed that the water broke in from some old colliery-workings in the neighbourhood. It had been observed that the water in the pit itself had of late been increasing.

A *Return to the House of Commons* has been printed, from which it appears that last year 611 vessels belonging to the United Kingdom were wrecked. Of the number 600 were sailing-vessels of 110,670 tonnage, and eleven steam-vessels, the tonnage of which was 1306.

Another fatal *Colliery Explosion* took place on the 20th, in the Downbrow Pit, near Preston. It was found to be dangerous when the men came to begin work in it in the morning: the overlooker stationed his son to prevent them from going into the dangerous parts with a lighted candle; but in his absence they disregarded his son, though he threatened them with a fine; went to the interdicted spots with a lighted candle, and instantly caused an explosion. Thirty-two were killed on the spot, and at least five more dangerously and seriously burnt and wounded.

On Saturday night, the 22nd inst, a *Collision* took place on the York, Newcastle, and Berwick Railway, but happily no loss of life occurred. The mail train left York about eight o'clock, and on arriving at ten minutes to eleven within a quarter of a mile of Gateshead, when speeding at the rate of 25 miles an hour, it ran into an engine and tender, which stood upon the line. The passengers were thrown with great violence from their seats, and were all much bruised in various parts of their bodies. The two tenders and engines were almost crushed to pieces. It was at once perceived that one at least, of the men who had charge of the engine standing on the line, was drunk, and incapable of taking care even of himself, and upon inquiry it was found that the engine had come from South Shields, but that the fires having been neglected the steam was exhausted, and the engine stopped just before the mail train came in sight.

The usual *Return relating to Railway Accidents* for the half year ending the 31st December has been printed. The number of passengers was 47,509,392. The number of persons killed was 113, and 264 injured. There were 8 passengers killed and 213 injured from causes beyond their own control; 9 passengers were killed and 14 injured owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 30 servants of companies or of contractors were killed and 17 injured from causes beyond their own control; 32 servants of companies or of contractors were killed and 11 injured owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 33 trespassers and other persons, neither passengers nor servants of the companies, were killed and 9 injured by crossing or walking

on railways. There was one suicide. The length of railways open on the 30th June, 1851, was 6698 miles, and on the 1st December last, 6890 miles, being an increase during the half year of 192 miles.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE first annual meeting of the subscribers to the *Cambridge Asylum for Sailors' Widows* was held on the 1st. The report stated that the amount of the subscriptions received was 3306*l.* The present Duke of Cambridge had conveyed to trustees land for the building at Kingston, in Surrey. A contract had been made for the erection of the building at the cost of 3700*l.* At present it would be sufficient for forty widows, and when the figures would allow the original design would be completed.

The annual meeting of the *Literary Association of the Friends of Poland* was held on the 3d inst., Lord D. Stuart in the chair. The report stated that the income for the past year was 1491*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, of which 800*l.* was contributed by the Poles. The expenditure for relief in distress, sickness, for the emigration of refugees, and education, amounted to 1026*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* The number of refugees now in England is about 820, of whom 200 receive assistance from the British government; 160 refugees had left this country, of whom 92 proceeded to America, and 13 were removed by death, showing an increase of 60 over the number of last year, during which there were nearly 1000 refugees in England.

The commencement of the east wing of the *Brompton Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest* was celebrated on the 5th inst. by a public dinner at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. The Duke of Cambridge presided. The report stated that during the past year the number of in-patients had been 474, of whom there had been discharged, more or less benefited 316, while 68 had died, and 90 remained in the building. The financial statement showed a material reduction of the outstanding liabilities, as well as of the current expenditure of the hospital. In the course of the evening subscriptions were announced to the amount of more than 3300*l.*, including 20*l.* from his Royal Highness, and 500*l.* from the Rev. D. Morel.

The members of the *British and Foreign Society* met at Exeter Hall, under Lord Shaftesbury, on the 5th inst. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chevalier Bunsen were speakers. The society had scattered 25,402,309 copies of the Bible in 175 languages—of which 121 were never before printed—among the peoples of the earth. But the condition of the world in these times, especially that of the despotically-governed countries of Eastern Europe, whose rulers have a notion that the Bible is fatal to their system, called for redoubled efforts. The receipts of the year had been 108,449*l.*; being more than 5000*l.* beyond those of last year, and 16,000*l.* beyond those of 1850: the expenses had been 103,930*l.*, and there were 52,341*l.* of "present engagements" to the further debit of the society.

The *London City Mission* assembled in the same place on the 6th, under Mr. Plumtre, member for East Kent, and were congratulated on the progress made by the missionaries and Scripture readers, "notwithstanding the malicious opposition of the Irish priests." Chevalier Bunsen was a speaker here also. The report stated that the receipts last year were 23,216*l.* About a million and a quarter of missionary visits were paid in that time, about a million and three-quarters of tracts distributed, and some hundreds of drunkards reclaimed and communicants received.

The *General Society for Improving the Duellings of the Working Classes* was assisted, on the 6th, by a meeting at Willis's Rooms, over which the Duke of Cambridge presided, and which was graced by the presence of a remarkable number of ladies of rank—the Duchesses of Sutherland, Norfolk, and Argyll, the Countesses Grey of Rosebery, Liefield, Wilton, Ellesmere, and Ripon, with other dames of note. The chairman made a speech manifesting a warm and practical interest in the society, and was supported by the Bishops of London and Oxford, the Earl of Ellesmere,

Sir John Villiers Shelley, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. Slaney, and Lord Ingestre.

The ruling body of the *University of London* met in session, in the rooms of the Royal Society, Somerset House, on the 5th, to confer degrees, honours, and prizes. The Chancellor of the University, the Earl of Burlington, presided; and the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. John Shaw Lefevre, with Mr. Hallam, Mr. Grote, Mr. George Cornewall Lewis, and others eminent in the professions, in literature and science, were present. 214 candidates had been admitted this year to matriculation. A doctorship in Medicine, and several bachelorships in Arts, Laws, and Medicine, were conferred; with a large number of honours and prizes. Mr. William Roberts, medical student of University College, seems to have carried off the greatest number of medals and other honours.

The undergraduates of the *University of London* met at Freemasons' Tavern on the 4th, to forward their claims to have the university re-organised so as to give them a voice in its internal administration, and to have it incorporated into a parliamentary constituency.

The annual meeting of the *Church Pastoral Aid Society* was held in Exeter-hall, on the 11th; the report stated that many new parochial districts had been formed during the year. The society now aids 343 incumbents in charge of a population of more than 2,594,692, or each with an average charge of 7564 souls. The average incomes of these incumbents was only 210*l.*, and 176 of them were without parsonage houses. The grants provide stipends for 317 clergymen and 115 lay assistants, at a charge to the society of 38,383*l.* per annum, when all are occupied. At the present time, 280 clergymen and 109 lay assistants, were supported at their important labours in the populous districts of the country, causing the estimated charges of the society to amount to 34,438*l.* per annum. There were now 30 applications for curates for additional churches, and 25 for lay assistants, waiting for new grants to be made. The financial statement showed the receipts to have been 34,095*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure for the year amounted to 33,047*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 1047*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in the hands of the treasurer.

The hundred and ninety-eighth anniversary meeting of the *Sons of the Clergy* was held on the 12th instant, in St. Paul's Cathedral. The grand choral service by the united choirs of the metropolitan cathedrals and of the two royal chapels, was performed with great effect. At the usual dinner in the evening, in the Merchant Tailors' Hall, the company included the Archbishop of Canterbury, many bishops, the Lord Mayor of London, and several members of the House of Commons. The Bishop of London made interesting reference to the fact that he and the Lord Mayor were fellow-townsmen of Bury St. Edmunds, and left their native places nearly together, in a humble way, as brother Whittingtons. The sum accruing from this year's celebration was the largest ever known—1520*l.*

The fifty-eighth anniversary meeting of the *London Missionary Society* was held at Exeter Hall, on the 13th, under the Lord Mayor. The income of the year had been 65,316*l.*, and the expenditure 72,830*l.*

On the 11th, Prince Albert laid the foundation-stone of a *Training Institution for Masters and Mistresses of the Schools of the National Society*, in Victoria-street, Westminster. The cost of the building will be 25,000*l.*, and the site has cost 14,000*l.* more.

At the sixty-third anniversary of the *Royal Literary Fund*, on the 12th, Lord Campbell presided; and, after stating that he owed his success in law to the fostering aid of his labours in literature, he held out hopes that he may yet live to produce a work which shall give him a better title to a name in literature than he has yet earned. Speeches were made by Justice Talfourd, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Chevalier Bunsen, Mr. Abbott Lawrence, and Mr. Thackeray. It appeared that the funds of the past year had been 600*l.* more than in any former year.

At the anniversary dinner of the *Artists' Benevolent Fund*, on the 8th, Sir Charles Eastlake presided. The public contributions of the year had been 450*l.*, including the hundred guineas which the Queen now regularly subscribes.

At the yearly meeting of the *Sailor's Home and Destitute Sailor's Asylum*, in the museum of the institutions, in Well-street, London Docks, Admiral Bowles presided. The receipts of the year had been 5895*l.*; the boarders received had been 4745.

At the sixth yearly meeting of the *Domestic Servants' Association*, in the Hanover-square Rooms, on the 11th, Lord Robert Grosvenor presided; and Lord Lifford and the Rev. Joseph Brown were speakers. The operations and means of the society were satisfactorily increasing.

The eighth yearly meeting of the *Ragged School Union* was held at Exeter Hall on the 10th, under Lord Ashley. At the first anniversary, in 1845, it appeared there were 20 schools and 200 voluntary teachers; now there are 110 schools, 1650 voluntary teachers, 200 paid teachers, and 13,700 children.

The *Crystal Palace* has been purchased for 70,000*l.*, by Mr. Laing, the chairman of the Brighton Railway Company, and some other gentlemen, chiefly co-directors of the railway, for re-erection on the site at Sydenham, from which railway communication will be opened with the stations at London Bridge and Vauxhall. "Crystal stations" will be built in London.

The fifth annual meeting of the *Servants' Royal Provident and Benevolent Society* took place on the 12th, Harry Chester, Esq., in the chair. It appeared from the report that, during the past year, 16,411*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* had been paid by servants to the provident fund of the society, 12,161*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* being on account of new contracts for government annuities. The total amount paid by servants to the provident fund of the society since its commencement has been 43,321*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, the greater portion of which has been for annuities.

The *Department of Practical Art*, recently formed under the direction of the Board of Trade, has issued an important memorandum, the object of which is to awaken in the public mind that appreciation of the rules of pure ornamentation which will not only create a demand for art-manufactures of a healthy character, but also supply a body of pupils qualified by their previous training to derive full benefit from the schools of design. The memorandum, after giving an outline of the objects of the department, and indicating the locality of the schools of art already established in London and other large cities of the empire, proceeds as follows:—

"Towards aiding the establishment of elementary classes or schools for drawing and modelling, in the advantages of which it is desirable that all classes of the community should have the opportunity of sharing, my lords are willing—1. To appoint a competent master, and to guarantee the payment to him of a certain income for a fixed period, in case the fees to be derived from the instruction of the scholars should not suffice to pay the master's salary; 2. To lend suitable ornaments to drawing copies, models, coloured examples, and books; 3. To furnish samples of drawing materials, such as black boards, drawing boards, paper, slates, chalk, pencils, &c.; and to give such information as will enable the managers and scholars to obtain these materials in the readiest way; on the following conditions:—

—1. That a committee of management be formed, either by corporate or parochial authorities, or persons engaged in schools of any description, or by persons interested in the object, or that a responsible person come forward, who must engage to provide, keep clean, warm, and light a suitable room, at their own liability; and to give the names of not less than twenty male or female scholars who will attend the school, if opened, for a period of not less than three months, at a payment of not less than 6*d.* per week each scholar. 2. That such committee shall be prepared, at the request of their lordships, to return the examples, &c., lent to them; that they will collect, and account for, the fees from the students, conduct and manage the school, provide for stated and periodical visits of inspection by members of the committee, be responsible for the attendance of the master, contribute some portion, at least, of the fees received towards his salary, dismiss him for incompetency or misconduct, reporting the same to this department; engage to follow the course of instruction prescribed, and make an annual report on the proceedings of the school, on or before the 31st October. 3. The hours of attendance and the amount of fees to be paid by the scholars to be regulated by the committee and the general superintendent of the department of practical art, according to local circumstances."

A meeting took place at the house of the Society of Arts on the 18th, for the purpose of carrying into effect a plan of *Combining that Society with the local Literary Institutions and Mechanics' Institutes of the Country*. A large number of delegates from the local societies were present; and, among the members of the London

Society, were the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl Granville, Harrowby, and Carlisle, the Bishop of Oxford, Dean Milman, Mr. Joseph Hume, and other Members of Parliament. The Marquis of Lansdowne opened the proceedings by stating the objects of the meeting; and resolutions were passed, of which the following were the principal:—

"That the success of literary and scientific institutions, and mechanics' institutes, in the cultivation of literature, science and art, and in the diffusion of useful knowledge, might be powerfully promoted by the combination of many institutions in union with the Society of Arts, on the basis of perfect security to the continued independence of the institutions, and the freedom of their self-government.

"That the pecuniary conditions of union should be calculated to protect the society from loss, and to afford to the institutions the full value of the payments which they may make."

The report of the Royal Commissioners for inquiring into the state, discipline, studies, and resources of the *University of Oxford*, which was issued on the 19th, recommends the assimilation of colleges; an extension of the curriculum further beyond classics and mathematics than it reaches at present; the extinction of mischievous distinctions of wealth and rank; and the resuscitation, for legislative purposes, of "congregation;" which is to consist of heads of houses, proctors, the senior tutor of each college, professors, and public lecturers. By the side of such an institution, the commissioners think that the Hebdomadal Board and the Convocation might safely be permitted to exist in their present shape—the former retaining its general superintendence and a joint initiative with Congregation on the measures to be submitted to Convocation; the latter retaining its veto on measures that have passed Congregation, and losing only its power of nominating to professorships.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Rajah of Coorg, who has come to this country for the education of his daughter, was presented with his daughter to her Majesty at an audience on the 17th. The Rajah was also present at her Majesty's state ball on the 19th in his Oriental costume of great magnificence.

Sir Stratford Canning, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Ottoman Porte, has been raised to the Peerage, by the title of Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, in the county of Somerset.

Lieutenant-General Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, G.C.H., has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the East India Company's forces on the Bombay establishment, in succession to Sir Charles Grey, who comes home invalided through the infirmities of age.

Mr. Rickards has been elected Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, in the room of Mr Nassau, Senior, whose term had expired.

General Rosas, the ex-dictator of Buenos Ayres, has arrived at Plymouth, in the neighbourhood of which place he intends, it is said, permanently to reside.

Colonel Fordyce, who lately lost his life in the Caffre war, has by his last will bequeathed a pension to the widow of every soldier who should fall under his command, a shilling each per day to all disabled soldiers of his corps; and left the means of purchasing commissions for his five most deserving sergeants.

The offices of Lord Justice-General and Lord President of the Court of Session are conferred on Lord Colonsay, one of the junior judges of the Court of Session, better known as Mr. Duncan McNeill. The vacant judgeship has been conferred upon Mr. Adam Anderson, who is succeeded as Lord Advocate by Mr. John Inglis; and the office of Solicitor-General, thus vacated, has been conferred upon Mr. Charles Neaves, the Sheriff of Orkney.

Lord John Russell has taken a lease for several years of Gart House, near Callander, the mansion of Admiral Houston Stewart, M.P. for Greenwich, as an autumn residence for himself and family. Gart House is delightfully situated on the banks of the Teith.

The Hon. G. Smythe and Colonel Romilly had an "affair of honour" on the 20th, in consequence of some expressions in a speech made by Captain Smythe which Colonel Romilly regarded as exceeding the fair licence of a political contest. Mr. Osborne and Captain Vivian, the friends of the parties, being unable to effect an accommodation, a hostile meeting took place between Mr. Smythe and Colonel Romilly this morning, when, after an interchange of shots, Colonel Romilly having, through his second, the Hon. John Portescue, M.P., declared himself satisfied, the parties left the ground.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

MR. ALEXANDER MACRAY, the author of the "Western World," and lately the Commissioner in India of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, died on his passage home from India, on board the Company's steamer *Aydalia*, on the 15th ult., in his thirty-second year.

MR. JOHN DALRYMPLE, the eminent surgeon, died at his house in Grosvenor Street, on the 2nd inst., in his forty-ninth year.

MR. W. H. MURRAY, late of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, who only a short time since retired from professional life, died very suddenly on the 6th inst., in his sixty-third year.

JOHN CAPEL HANBURY TRACY, third son of the Hon. Lord Sudely, died at Genoa, on the 4th of May.

The Right Hon. Earl COLN WALLIS died at Linton Park, Kent, on the 21st, in his seventy-third year.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

By the *Overland Mail from Bombay* of the 17th of April, we learn that the troops for Burmah were all embarked by the 30th of March. The whole force was to unite before Rangoon on the 5th of April, and Rangoon was expected to be in our possession by the 10th of the same month. The forces would then advance as speedily as possible further up into the country before the rainy season, and would then await reinforcements and the return of more favourable weather. The expedition under Sir Colin Campbell returned to Peshawur on the 27th of March. Three days afterwards, however, new outbreaks upon the frontiers were reported, and it was expected the troops would again be sent off.

The overland mail brings *News from Hong-kong* to the 30th of March. Governor Sir George Bonham was returning home for a temporary absence, to recruit his health. Major-General Jervois would assume the government *pro tempore*; but it was expected that the next (January) mail would bring out a commission to Dr. Bowring as Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of Trade.

A Hong-kong letter says—"The emigration to California is still in progress. Upwards of fifty ships have sailed, taking, it is estimated, about 15,000 emigrants."

The *West India Mail* has brought advices from the different colonies to the end of April. There is no political news of importance. Jamaica was quiet, but the state of agricultural affairs fearfully depressed. Very many of the largest and most productive sugar estates are being thrown out of cultivation. The commerce of the island is also much depressed, having lost nearly all its foreign trade. Cholera has entirely disappeared. Small-pox is prevalent in many parts of the island.

In Demerara a shock of earthquake was felt on the 14th of April. No damage was done. On the same day, the islands of St. Vincent and Grenada, several hundred miles distant, were visited with similar convulsions. There had been another arrival of coolies from the East Indies to the number of 300. These people, who were brought by the *Zenobia*, have been allotted to the different estates in the county of Berbice. The weather during the fortnight had been propitious for vegetation; and the planters were looking forward with confidence to an improved crop. There had been, however, a good deal of sickness; the yellow fever, though materially abated, still pursuing its deadly career.

Labouring hands were very scarce at St. Thomas, owing to the number of persons who had gone to work

in the copper mines in Virgin Gorda, an island near Tortola. These mines have been discovered some time, but, owing to a want of capital, they have not been worked. The requisite capital has now been found, and the mines are working very successfully. The ore from them is very beautiful.

Advices have been received from the *Cape of Good Hope* to the 1st of April. The military operations against the Caffres were vigorously prosecuted. Sir H. Smith, placing himself personally at the head of his troops, had at last driven Maemo out of the Water-Kloof, destroying his camp and capturing his chief wife; and was advancing on him and Sandilli united, in their last hold of the Amatolas. But our losses had been severe. The Honourable H. Wriottesley, of the 43rd, had lost his life; and Colonel Yarborough, Captain Bramley, and Ensign Hibbert, all of the 91st regiment, had been very severely wounded. Our loss in rank and file, killed and wounded, had been heavy; and there are credible statements that horrible tortures were inflicted by the Caffres on the English prisoners they took. Caffre-women, taken prisoners, have described these cruelties. Mr. Hartung, the bandmaster of the 74th Highlanders, was cut into pieces with assegais whilst living, being kept under torture for three days, the process of which was that of cutting off his fingers and toes inch by inch, at intervals, and when, at the close of the third day, the wretched man asked for food, a piece of his own flesh was cut from his body and given him. A few hours afterwards death terminated his sufferings. But this atrocity has been exceeded in the case of Sergeant Lange, who fell alive into the enemy's hands, and who was found at the end of three days from his capture, expiring under the horrors of crucifixion, being extended upon his back on the ground, to which he was fixed by stakes of wood driven through the palms of his hands, the ankles, and a fifth through his body. Humanity forbids a further recital of such barbarities.

All the accounts from *Australia* are engrossed with the subject of the golden harvest daily becoming more and more abundant. Among the many letters from the different settlements, the following, received by a respectable gentleman in the City, and published in the "Times," may be taken as showing the state of things in the Colony of Victoria. It is dated from the Mount Alexander Diggings, Jan. 18:—

"The gold here is generally found in clay, clayey gravel, and in interstices of slate, &c., at depths varying from the surface to twenty-five feet. It is more generally diffused on this ground than it ever was known in any other part of the world; hence persevering and steady parties are sure to do well. It is found in patches, or 'pockets,' as it is termed, and sometimes a party of, say three or four, will obtain over fifty pound weight in a day. Having a splendid pair of scales, I am in the constant practice of weighing and subdividing gold for parties, and have had as much as twenty pound or thirty pound brought by one party at a time. Provisions, &c., are at a high rate here—flour 5d. per lb.; ham and butter, 2s. 6d. per lb.; oats, 18s. per bushel; slop boots, 24s. per pair; common pitchfork and shovel, 10s. each. The cattle-owners now want men to look after their sheep. The price of labour is most enormous, a man is worth 1l. per day. The gold discovery is ruining the neighbouring colonies, Adelaide, Van Diemen's Land, &c., which are fast becoming depopulated. At night, the sight of the thousand fires around us is very pretty, and the incessant firing of guns and pistols rather astounding. Almost every man is armed, and I can assure you the state of society requires it, for crime in almost every shape and form is being perpetrated almost daily. You may suppose a gold-field a most original sight; at a distance it can only be compared to an immense army, encamped in myriads of tents of all shapes, sizes, and colours. From where I write are the main diggings in the country; they extend for about ten miles, and about three weeks since contained from 12,000 to 15,000 persons; besides, there are many other

places close at hand, and gold is still being found at several new places throughout the colony. To give you an idea of the business I am carrying on, I may tell you I sent down twenty-six pound weight of gold, and about 200l. in necks, per last escort, the proceeds of one week."

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

The number of *Emigrants despatched from Liverpool* for the United States during the last month was 25,492, the largest number that ever sailed in one month. The greater proportion of the emigrants are German and Irish, chiefly agricultural labourers.

The *Emigration from Ireland* goes on at an undiminished rate. A Cork paper gives a list of emigrant ships from Limerick, Tralee, Wexford, Galway, and Waterford, which sailed for the United States in a single week, carrying passengers to the number of 2360.

A series of papers relative to *Emigration to the United States and to the North American Colonies* have been printed by order of the House of Commons. It appears by the report of Mr. Buchanan, chief agent of emigration at Quebec, that emigration to the United States continues to flow in a steady and uninterrupted stream, and that the numbers from the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe have exceeded, during the past season, those of any previous year. The arrivals at the port of New York up to the close of the year 1851 were 289,601, being an increase over 1850 of 76,805. Of the whole number, considerably more than half (163,256) were from Ireland, 30,742 from England and Wales, and 7502 from Scotland, making the total emigration from the United Kingdom 201,300, as having landed at that port alone during the year 1851. The whole emigration to the United States in 1851 is estimated at not less than 500,000 souls. The demand for labour of all sorts continues to increase, and farm servants, male and female, can find immediate employment. In the North American colonies, the tide of emigration has not set in so powerfully. In the year 1851, 41,076 emigrants landed. Of these, 22,381 were from Ireland, 9677 from England, 7042 from Scotland, 870 from the continent of Europe, and 1106 from lower ports, &c. The number of emigrant vessels which arrived was 375, and the actual number of souls embarked was 41,298. Of these, 40,657 were steerage, and only 621 cabin passengers. The emigrants were, generally, of a respectable class, and all emigrated voluntarily, with the exception of 872, who were sent out by landlords and parish-unions.

A numerous meeting of persons interested in the *Canterbury Settlement in New Zealand* was held on the 5th inst., at the rooms of the Association, Adelphi Terrace. Lord Lyttelton explained, that the project of a bishopric of Christ Church, to be carved out of Bishop Selwyn's episcopate, has made a new and practical advance; and the Reverend John Philip Gell was introduced as already approved of by the Archbishop of Canterbury for consecration, as soon as certain technical difficulties have been completely smoothed. Sir Thomas Tancred stated that a new township, to be named Gladstone, is to be formed.

The Earl of Derby received at his official residence in Downing-street, on the 20th, a *Deputation from the Manufacturers of the West Riding of Yorkshire*, on the urgent necessity of immediately sending out an adequate supply of labour to Australia. The Premier was informed, that if the assistance required were not sent out in June, it would be too late for the next wool-clipping, and the colonists would be obliged to boil down their sheep. Lord Derby replied, that the question was very embarrassing; for the gold-field was daily becoming more extensive and more productive, and it was to be dreaded that the same temptations which withdrew labour from colonial sheep-farming, would even more attract that of new comers into the colonies. The government would send emigrants out at a rate which would land about 4800 in time for the next clipping; but it would be impossible to get shipping for such numbers as had been mentioned; "and then it would not do to allow the sexes to go unmatched." The matter, he said, engages the serious attention of the government.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE ceremony of distributing the eagles and standards to the French army took place on the 10th, with most imposing splendour, in the Champ de Mars. In front of the Ecole Militaire tribunes were erected for the President, his family and court, the great bodies of the state, and their families, the diplomatic corps, and persons of mark having no public function. The President's tribune was a magnificent pavilion, whose floor, on a level with the first story of the Ecole, formed an arched portico, fifty feet in height, and the same number of feet wide. In the tribunes a great many English gazers were mingled. Among the foreigners, were several Russian and Austrian princes, Prussian noblemen, Polish and Hungarian exiles of note, and some American officers and civilians. Between the Bridge of Jena and the Ecole Militaire, and about one-third of the distance from the Ecole, was erected a chapel, seventy-five feet from base to summit; and on a platform, twenty-three feet high, was raised an altar. From the summit of every dome, roof, and mound, floated tricolor flags; and, parallel with the rising ground on both sides, and within it, extended a long array of lofty poles, seventy or eighty feet in height, with gilded tops, and dressed with streamers. Every place fronting the river was alive with human beings; who, however, all moved about without confusion or the slightest disorder. The Seine itself, in the direction of the Invalides and Bridge of Jena, was covered with boats conveying passengers, male and female, to the south bank; while countless booths established in every alley of the Champs Elysées afforded refreshments for the weary. The troops began to arrive at half-past ten. They were formed in two lines down the length of the Champ de Mars; the infantry on the right entering by the Pont de Jena, and the cavalry on the left; the first of these lines being composed of bodies of infantry drawn up in close battalion, and the other of bodies of cavalry in dense squadrons. The number of troops present are variously stated at from 60,000 to 80,000. There were forty-eight battalions of the line, fifty-six squadrons of cavalry and sixty guns. This mass, however, does not include the Gendarmerie, mounted or on foot, the Republican Guard, the Chasseurs de Vincennes, the deputations from the general army, the Invalides, &c. The whole mass of people is computed to have been probably not far short of half a million. The ecclesiastics advanced to the chapel and altar, with the Archbishop of Paris in their midst. A long line of white surplices led the way, accompanied at intervals by soldiers, constabulary, a guard of honour; next came the higher clergy, the vicars, canons, &c.; and lastly, to close the long ecclesiastical cortège, appeared the black soutanes of the pupils of the religious ceremonies. The whole was preceded by drums and military music, as if to intimate that even in the religious part of the proceedings the ceremony of the day was strictly military. President Bonaparte reached the Pont de Jena punctually at noon. His entrance into the Champ de Mars was announced by a salute of twenty-one guns, and by acclamations which were drowned in the peal of the artillery. First, he galloped down between the lines; acknowledging, by repeatedly taking off his cocked hat, the chorus of acclamations uttered by the troops. On passing the altar the President and his suite uncovered. When he reached the front of the Ecole Militaire, he wheeled to the left, and galloped back along the front of the cavalry regiments. He then crossed before the artillery, and passed a second time down the front of the infantry. When he reached the foot of the staircase leading up to his tribune, he dismounted, and ascending saluted, by taking off his cocked hat, the ministers and high dignitaries, who came forward to meet him down to the first landing-place. He then took his seat in the arm-chair set for him. On his right stood the ex-King Jerome, in the uniform of Marshal of France. On either side and behind were ranged the ministers, the marshals, and admirals, the French ambassadors present in Paris, and the military household of the prince. The standard-bearers advanced, each in his turn, and received a standard from the Presi-

dent. When the distribution was completed, the President delivered this address—

"Soldiers! the history of nations is, in a great measure, the history of armies: on their success or reverse depends the fate of civilisation and of the country. If conquered, the result is invasion or anarchy: if victorious, it is glory and order. Thus nations, like armies, entertain a religious veneration for those emblems of military honour which sum up in themselves a past history of struggles and of trials.

"The Roman eagle, adopted by the emperor Napoleon at the commencement of this century, was the most striking signification of the regeneration and of the grandeur of France. It disappeared in our misfortunes; it ought to return when France, recovered from her defeats and mistress of herself, seems not any longer to repudiate her own glory.

"Soldiers! resume then these eagles, not as a menace against foreign powers, but as the symbol of our independence, as the souvenir of an heroic epoch, and as a sign of the nobleness of each regiment. Take again these eagles which have so often led our fathers to victory; and swear to die, if necessary, in their defence."

The standard-bearers then marched to the chapel and altar to have their insignia blessed. Arrived there, the commencement of the religious ceremony was signalled by the boom of artillery. The archbishop commenced the mass. At the moment of the elevation, another salute was fired; the drums beat to arms; the trumpets sounded the advance; sixty thousand men presented arms, the whole of the infantry kneeling, and the officers not in command bent on one knee to the earth, with head uncovered. The multitude on the mounds took off their hats. When mass was over, the archbishop, surrounded by the officiating clergy, proceeded to where the eagles were arrayed round the altar. He raised his voice to chant the prayer, "Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini," and the clergy responded "Amen!" After the "Oremus, Omnipotens sempiternus Deus," the prelate sprinkled the flags with holy water, and blessed them; and then took his seat on a throne, and assumed the mitre. The standard-bearers advanced separately; knelt on the ground, each with the eagle in his hand; and the archbishop spoke the following prayer—

"Accipite vexilla celestis benedictione sanctificata, sineque inimicis populi Christiani terribilia; et det vobis Dominus gratiam, ut, ad ipsius nominis et honorum, cum illo hostium cuneos poterit penitentes incolumes et secuti."

The archbishop pronounced a short address to the standard-bearers, justifying the ceremony of blessing the insignia of war. He gave for the whole army the kiss of peace, with the words "Pax tibi." The foremost standard-bearer, rising from the ground, pressed to his lips the Pontifical ring, and then all resumed their places. The musical mass followed, performed by a body of more than 1500 musicians. After the mass, the archbishop stood erect, arrayed in mitre and cope, and holding the crosier, raised his hand aloft, and gave a universal blessing to the army and the people. A salute of a hundred guns from the cannon of the Bridge of Jena then announced that the religious ceremony was complete. The colonels, to whom the standards were delivered by the archbishop, descended, and defiled round the chapel. They then proceeded to their respective regiments, delivered the eagles to the ensigns, and had them recognised by the corps in the usual manner. At this moment cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" and "Vive Napoléon!" were uttered; the former with much enthusiasm by the cavalry. At two o'clock, the President descended from his pavilion, mounted his horse, and took up his position in front. The firing-off commenced, and cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive Napoléon!" were again heard.

The military deputations, when leaving the Champ de Mars after the défilé, returned to the Ecole Militaire through the cavalry gate. They deposited their respective colours in a hall prepared for that purpose; whence they are immediately to be despatched to their regiments. A salute of twenty-one guns was fired as Louis Napoleon quitted the Champ de Mars. The clergy, who were, including the ecclesiastical seminaries, upwards of eight hundred in number, remained on the ground to the last. A guard of honour of the Gendar-

meric Mobile was assigned to them; and they were conducted in procession to the Church of the Gros-Cailrou; the archbishop delivering his blessing to the multitude through whom he passed, and who received it with uncovered heads and with indications of deep respect.

The venerable astronomer, Arago, has refused to take the oath of allegiance. He signified his resolution by the following remarkable letter addressed to the Minister of Public Instruction:

"Paris, May 9.

"Monsieur le Ministre,—The government has itself admitted that the oath prescribed by Art. 14 of the Constitution ought not to be required from members of a purely scientific and literary body like the Institute. I cannot say why the Bureau des Longitudes, an astronomical academy, in which, when a vacancy occurs, an election ensues to fill it up, is placed in another category. The simple circumstance would perhaps have sufficed to induce me to refuse the oath; but considerations of another nature, I confess, have exercised a decisive influence on my mind. Circumstances rendered me, in 1848, as member of the provisional government, one of the founders of the republic. As such, and I glory in it at present, I contributed to the abolition of all political oaths. At a later period I was named by the constituent assembly president of the executive committee: my acts in that last-named situation are too well known to the public for me to have need to mention them here. You can comprehend, Monsieur le Ministre, that in presence of these reminiscences my conscience has imposed on me a resolution which perhaps the director of the Observatory would have hesitated to come to. I had always thought that by the terms of the law an astronomer at the Bureau of Longitude was appointed for life, but your decision has undeceived me. I have, therefore, M. le Ministre, to request you to appoint a day on which I shall have to quit an establishment which I have been inhabiting now for nearly half a century. That establishment—thanks to the protection given to it by the governments which have succeeded each other in France for the last forty years—thanks, above all, may I be allowed to say, to the kindness of the legislative assemblies, in regard to me—has risen from its ruins and its insignificance, and can now be offered to strangers as a model. It is not without a profound sentiment of grief that I shall separate from so many fine instruments, to the construction of which I have more or less contributed; it is not without lively apprehension that I shall behold the means of research created by me passing into malevolent or even inimical hands; but my conscience has spoken, and I am bound to obey its dictates. I am anxious that in this circumstance everything shall pass in the most open manner; and in consequence I hasten to inform you, Monsieur le Ministre, that I shall address to all the great academies of Europe and America—for I have long had the honour of belonging to them—a circular which will explain my removal from an establishment with which my name had been in some sort identified, and which was for me a second country. I desire it to be known everywhere that the motives which have dictated my determination have nothing for which my children can ever blush. I owe these explanations, above all, to the most eminent savans who honour me with their friendship, such as Humboldt, Faraday, Brewster, Melloni, &c. I am anxious, also, that these illustrious personages may not be uneasy concerning the great change which this determination of mine will produce in my existence. My health has, without doubt, been much impaired in the service of my country. A man cannot have passed a part of his life in going from mountain peak to mountain peak, in the wildest districts of Spain, for the purpose of determining the precise figure of the earth; in the inhospitable regions of Africa, comprised between Bouga and the capital of the Regency; in Algerian corsairs; in the prisons of the Majorca, of Rosas, and of Palamos, without profound traces being left behind. But I may remind my friend that a hand without vigour can still hold a pen, and that the half-blind old man will always find near him persons anxious to note down his words. Receive, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of my respect.

FR. ARAGO."

The publication of this letter was withheld by M. Arago till the last moment, in order that his colleagues might follow the dictates of their own consciences unembarrassed by his example. Immediately after it appeared, he received a notification from the Minister of Public Instruction, that the government had already determined not to require the oath of him—the President had authorised the minister to admit an exception in favour of a savant whose works had thrown lustre on France, and whose existence he would regret to embitter; and the publication of M. Arago's letter would not change the determination in his favour.

General Changarnier has also refused to take the oath of allegiance. In his letter, intimating this resolution to the Minister of the Interior, he says:

"Persecution has not cooled my patriotism. The exile which I have undergone in solitude and silence, which now you force me to break, has not changed in my eyes my duties to France,

Were it to be attacked, I would solicit with ardour the honour of fighting in its defence.

"The only French journal which I here see has just informed me of the decree which determines the mode of taking the oath—which is to be demanded of all military authorities. A paragraph, evidently drawn up in order to be applied to the proscribed generals, gives them a delay of four months. I have no need of deliberating so long upon a question of duty and honour. This oath, exacted by the perjured man who has failed to corrupt me—this oath I refuse."

Mr. Edward Murray, a British subject, has been sentenced to death, at Rome, with eight other persons, for being connected with the supposed assassins of a Papal officer three years since. Mr. Freeborn, the English consul at Rome, has taken immediate steps with the Papal government to procure a mitigation of the penalty. In furtherance of this object a petition has been drawn up and signed by the British visitors and residents at present in Rome.

Accounts from Berlin state that the Emperor of Russia arrived at Potsdam on the 16th, accompanied by Count Nesselrode. The king and queen of Hanover, and several of the minor princes of the Germanic Confederation, were expected. The emperor's previous visit to Vienna manifests the increased intimacy of the northern alliance, for on quitting the young Emperor of Austria, whom he tenderly embraced at parting, Nicholas is reported to have exclaimed, "You know there is now a bond for life and death between us."

The Berlin *Klatterlatzsch*, the Prussian "Punch," was seized on the 17th, for publishing a caricature of Louis Napoleon. The event is said to have made an immense sensation.

A ministerial crisis has taken in Piedmont. The Chamber of Deputies, on the 11th instant, elected M. Rattazzi, "leader of the left centre," to be its President, in place of the deceased M. Pinelli. The election was carried against the d'Azeglio government by the union of the right, or church party, with the liberal opposition. On the 15th instant M. d'Azeglio and the ministers of the interior and justice resigned; and Count Cavour, Minister of Finance, was asked to form a cabinet. But a telegraphic message from Turin of the 17th states that Count Cavour and his colleagues had retired, and that the Marquis d'Azeglio had been intrusted with the task of forming a new cabinet.

The latest advices from the United States are not of much importance. In Congress no particular business had been transacted. The currency bill, the passage of which was considered expedient by the administration, was about to be taken up. Six towns in Erie county had elected eighteen Fillmore delegates to the convention; and at Rome the whigs, assisted by a portion of the democrats, had carried the charter election there by a majority of fifty over the regular democrats. At Richmond, Virginia, nearly all the democratic candidates were in favour of Buchanan for the Presidency. The health of Mr. Henry Clay, one of the most able statesmen in America, which has for some time been precarious, has been pronounced hopeless. Kossuth still continued to excite great enthusiasm among the New England people, who freely attended his meetings, the price of admission in some cases being from one to two dollars each person, for which a bond payable on the achievement of the independence of Hungary was given, in addition to the oratorical entertainment. At Charleston, on the 4th, there was a numerous assembly, and on the 4th he visited Cambridge, and dined at the house of Professor Longfellow.

The legislature of California has appointed a committee to report upon the state of the country in general, and upon the disposal of public lands in special, in regard to the best means of advancing the improvement of the state on a safe basis of agriculture. This committee, impressed with the desire to see the transient population of gold-diggers substituted by a stationary one of agriculturists, made their report on the 22nd February, and it has been published by authority of the legislature. The report proposes a donation of 160 acres to each male adult that will become an

agricultural settler as an American citizen, and to instruct the representatives of the state at Washington to obtain the right of so disposing of the public lands. In regard to the mines, the report proposes that the right of mining should be limited to American citizens. The amount of gold exported in 1851 is given by the custom-house clearances at 56,000,000 dols., and compounded at 12,000,000 dols., taken out of the country by individuals returning to other countries. But a falling off is anticipated for the present year, owing to a change of system of mining, changing from placers to quartz veins, the former beginning to

be exhausted, and the latter in the act of being established. In the gold regions along the San Joaquin, Trinity, and Fresno rivers, a country 600 miles long and 30 wide, there are now about a hundred quartz mines opened, at the cost of 10,000 dols. each on an average, with mills for crushing the ore. It is doubtful, says the report, that these establishments will pay at first, till better experience has been made in the working of them; but after a few years California will have a steady supply of gold, though it may not be so productive to single individuals as the placers have been.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE principal contributions to the literature of the month have been in the department of Voyages and Travels, and Observations on Foreign countries. The late governor of Hong-Kong, Sir John Francis Davis, has published two volumes on *China during the War, and since the Peace*, the first of which is mainly composed of extracts from Chinese official papers written during the opium war, and presenting a very amusing history of the conflict seen from the Chinese point of view. The idea of the Chinese character presented in these grave documents is, in its extremes of ingenuity and ignorance, such as one might rather have expected to derive from the exuberant whim and fancy of Swift or Rabelais than from serious official papers. Sir John Davis's second volume gives us the result of his own four years' administration of our new dependency in China. A book on a congenial subject, *Japan and the Japanese*, is the reprint of an interesting narrative of a Russian officer's captivity among that inhospitable people some forty years ago, suggested by the interest at present felt in the result of the American expedition to Japan. The case of Captain Golownin is exactly similar to those for which the United States government is now bent on obtaining redress. *Sixteen Months in the Danish Isles*, by Andrew Hamilton, contains a fuller account of existing life in Denmark at the present day, of the condition of the country, and the social habits of various classes of the people, than any English traveller had before given us. Mr Laing's volume on the same subject, *Observations on the Social and Political State of Denmark and the Duchies of Sleswic and Holstein in 1851*, is more in the nature of a political treatise illustrating the late armed dispute of the Germans and the Danes; but it contains also much valuable and acute observation on the society and civilisation of Denmark in the nineteenth century. *Our Antipodes* describes a recent residence in the Australasian colonies, by Lieutenant-Colonel Mundy, who divides his attention pretty equally between Botany Bay and Sidney, New Zealand and Van Diemen's Land, describing the varieties of emigrant and convict life, entering with great relish into all the field sports of the antipodes, and taking his readers for a fortnight's excursion to the gold diggings. *Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal*, by Lieutenant Osborne, affords us another spirited testimony of the zeal which has animated the search for Franklin and his companions, of the cheerful endurance with which the hardships of the various exploring expeditions have been undergone, and the apparently indestructible hope which still sustains all engaged in them. The book possesses also an independent interest, as the first account we have had of a voyage by steam in the polar regions. Mr F. A. Neale's *Narrative of a Residence in Siam*, contains some lively sketches of a people very imperfectly known; and Captain Smith's narrative of a *Five Years' Residence in Nepal*, contains much clever writing and descriptive adventure in connection with one of the least familiar and most interesting parts of the great empire of India. Mr. Laurence Oliphant's *Journey to Nepal* has a more restricted character, being chiefly occupied with a description of the Nepanese capital, Katmandu, and of the camp of Jung Bahadur, the chief who so lately was accredited to England. Mr. Oliphant shows us that celebrated Nepanese ambassador at home, and gives a very

interesting sketch of his earlier career. His little volume is the last of Mr. Murray's Railway Series; and the latest addition to the similar Series published by Messrs. Longman contains a translation of very vivid and striking *African Wanderings*, by an enterprising German traveller, Ferdinand Verne. *Thirty-five Years in the East* is an eccentric omnium-gatherum of Eastern experience, comprising adventures, discoveries, experiments, and historical sketches, gathered in the Punjab and Cashmere by a German practitioner, Mr. John Martin Hönigberger, late physician to the court of Lahore. Medicine, botany, and pharmacy, figure largely in this volume; in which is also set forth "an original *Materia Medica*," and a "Medical Vocabulary in four European and five Eastern languages."

The additions to the literature of the month, which rank next in importance to these, have been made in the department of Biography. The Rev. Dr. Hanna has concluded the *Life of Chalmers* in a fourth volume, which comprises the last thirteen years of the great Presbyterian minister's life, and includes the memorable free-church disruption in which Chalmers bore so distinguished a part. Mrs. Romer has commenced, and a Roman Catholic clergyman completed, under the somewhat affected title of *Filia Dolorosa*, a life of the ill-starred daughter of Louis XVI., the last of the French dauphines, the Duchess of Angoulême. Miss Pardoe, selecting a heroine of very opposite character and fortunes, has devoted three large volumes to a *Life of Mary de Medicis*, the too celebrated Regent of France under the thirteenth Louis. Mr. Thomas Wright has translated and edited a new *Life of King Alfred* by a celebrated German scholar, Dr. Reinhold Pauli. Mr. William Pollard Urquhart has published a somewhat elaborate narrative of the *Life and Times of Francesco Sforza, Duke of Milan*, introduced by a preliminary sketch of the history of Italy. Dr. Knox has indulged a somewhat eccentric taste for biographical comparison by publishing a treatise called *Great Artists and Great Anatomists*, in which such names and such careers as those of Raffaele and Cuvier are made to run side by side. Dr. W. Smith has compressed some selections from his celebrated Classical Dictionaries into a compact and precious volume for the use of schools, with the title of a *Smaller Classical Dictionary of Biography, Mythology, and Geography*. To Mr. John Burnet and Mr. Peter Cunningham we are indebted for an interesting volume entitled *Turner and his Works*, comprising a memoir of the great artist's life, specimens of his works strikingly engraved in mezzotint, and critical remarks upon his principles of painting. Miss Strickland has completed, in an eighth volume, the enlarged edition of her *Lives of the Queens of England*; and a re-publication has been undertaken, in four volumes, of Hazlitt's *Life of Napoleon Buonaparte*.

In Political Science we have to mention, as welcome information to all thoughtful readers, the appearance of Mr. George Cornewall Lewis's *Treatise on the Methods of Observation and Reasoning in Politics*. Mr. Thomas Doubleday has published a volume on *Mundane Moral Government*, in which he seeks to demonstrate its analogy with systems of material government. Mr. Joseph Moseley has written a treatise on *Political Elements; or, the Progress of Modern Legislation*. Mr. Jellinger Symons has, in a small volume, stated his

views on *School Economy*. Two Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, Mr. Davis and Mr. Vaughan, have published an excellent translation of *The Republic of Plato*, with Introduction, Analysis, and Notes. Three useful contributions to popular science have been made in *The First Report of the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851*; in the *First Part of the Record of the School of Mines and of Science applied to the Arts*; and in a volume of *Lectures on the Results of the Great Exhibition*, delivered by the many distinguished men who treated of various branches of the subject at the Society of Arts. Mr. Rymer Jones has published a second volume of his *Natural History of Animals*. Professor H. H. Wilson has made a timely and opportune re-issue of a *Narrative of the Bureens War in 1824-26*, published in India at the time, with a moral pointed to the similar affair in which we are now engaged. Mr. Leoni Levi has completed his important treatise on *Commercial Law; its Principles and Administration*, of which the object was to shape the way to the formation of a uniform legal code applicable to the commerce of all nations, by exhibiting the various agreements or differences of our existing mercantile law with other known codes and laws of commerce, ancient and modern.

Such books of a miscellaneous kind as remain to complete our summary of the month, may be briefly added. They comprise *Mary Seaham*, a novel by Mrs. Grey; *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life among the Lowly*, a series of American sketches illustrative of slave life; the *Days of Bruce*, a story founded on Scottish history, by Grace Agallur; *Lydia, a Woman's Book*, by Mrs. Newton Crossland; and a story in three volumes, called *Fabian's Tower*.

THE *Annual Dinner of the Royal Academy*, on the 1st inst., was a very interesting meeting. The president, Sir Charles Eastlake, was in the chair, and the tables were crowded with statesmen of all parties, and men distinguished for rank and distinction in art, science and literature. It happened to be the Duke of Wellington's birth-day, and the circumstance was gracefully alluded to by the chairman in proposing the health of the Duke, who was present.—Chevalier Bunsen acknowledged a toast to the foreign competitors: in giving thanks for foreign painters, he expressed a hope that they might also see within those walls sculpture, and the works of the great master and genius of the age, Thorwaldsen.—The Earl of Derby, in responding to the toast of his health, expressed his ardent desire to encourage the growing taste for the fine arts, and his hope that his administration might (he said) "have an opportunity of testifying our good-will to a pleasing and delightful art by providing a more fitting and more adequate locality for those treasures of ancient and modern art which of late years this country has been rapidly accumulating, and for the more rapid accumulation of which little more is wanting than that which I hope government may have it in their power to provide—a more suitable space for their accommodation."—The Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke in a similar spirit; but observed, that the task of obtaining for art a habitation worthy of its lofty mission was full of difficulties. "I cannot forget," he said, "that if the House of Commons be applied to for this great object, there sits there one who is distinguished for ability, and who is—that I have no claim to be—an eminent and successful statesman. If I could be assisted by the noble lord the member for London—if he would but exert his authority in that house, on whatever side he may sit, I might indeed indulge in the hope that I could succeed in fulfilling your expectations, and in achieving a great result which has been too long delayed, and to which my noble friend so significantly alluded to-night. I will indulge in the hope from that reference, that a palace may arise in this great metropolis, worthy of the arts, worthy of the admiration of the foreigner, worthy of this mighty people, as the becoming emporium where all the genius and inventions of man may be centered and celebrated. But to accomplish that hope we must enlist all the sympathies of all the parties

in the state; and it is not to me—one whom accident has placed in a position for which he is not qualified—but to those whose long services and the evidences of whose great abilities have gained the confidence of the country, you must look: and if assisted by the noble lord the member for the city of London, then indeed the Royal Academy and this company may expect the accomplishment of that which they have so long desired. And, in the hope that the noble lord will so assist us, I will break through the etiquette of the evening, and, with your permission, I will venture to propose to you 'the health of the noble lord the member for the city of London.'" The toast was received with great cheering and laughter, and Lord John Russell made a genial reply, in which he promised his best efforts to provide a better habitation for the Royal Academy, and playfully complimented Mr. Disraeli on the versatility of his talents. "Mr. Burke and Mr. Macaulay," said Lord John, "were both famous in literature, but I do not know that either of them could produce a picture equal to any in this room. Now, this is an arena which yet remains open for the Chancellor of the Exchequer; and, as he has succeeded in so many things already, I hope he will try to succeed in the fine arts as he has done in literature, and as, I must say, he has done in political science." Speeches were also made by the Lord Mayor of London, Lord Rosse, Lord Mahon, Professor Owen, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and the Earl of Ellesmere. The last referred to himself in connection with the noble picture-gallery of his family, as a keeper of those "old lamps" who makes it "a study and gratification to afford those who desire to catch from them some sparks of the ancient fire, every facility they wish."

A meeting on the subject of the *Book Trade*, very numerous attended by booksellers and authors, was held at Mr. Chapman's, in the Strand, on the 4th inst., with reference to the system of "protected" profits enforced by the London Booksellers' Association. Mr. Charles Dickens took the chair, and said that, though he hesitated at first to do so, as the question struck him to be purely a booksellers' one, he had been induced to accede to the request, being on principle opposed to any system of exclusion and restriction, and in favour of every man having the free exercise of his thrift and enterprise. Letters were then read from Mr. Cobden, Mr. J. S. Mill, Professor de Morgan, Mr. H. Cole, C.B., Mr. J. Wilson, M.P., Mr. W. J. Fox, M.P., Mr. G. Combe, Mr. G. R. McCulloch, Mr. W. E. Gladstone, M.P. Mr. Chambers, of Edinburgh, Mr. Leigh Hunt, Mr. Howitt, Dr. Pereira, Mr. T. Carlyle, and others, all expressing a decided condemnation of the course taken by the London Booksellers' Association and of the existing arrangements in the book trade. The following resolutions, moved by Mr. Babbage, Mr. C. Knight, Professor Newman, Professor Owen, and Mr. Ward, were carried:—

"That the principles of free trade having now been established by experience as well as by argument, it is the opinion of this meeting that they ought to be applied to books as to all other articles of commerce."

"That the principles of the Booksellers' Association are not only opposed to those of free trade, but are extremely tyrannical and vexatious in their application, and result in keeping the prices of books much higher than they otherwise would be, thus restricting their sale, to the great injury of authors, the public, and of all connected with literature."

"That this meeting considers the peculiarity of the book trade—viz., that the publisher fixes and advertises the retail price of his publications—no valid argument for the maintenance of the present restrictive system, and that the less the office of promoting the retail sale is centralised in the publisher, and the more it devolves on the local bookseller, the better for the commerce of literature."

"That the trade restrictions, falling as they do with peculiar severity upon books of a comparatively limited circulation, greatly retard the spread of the higher branches of science and philosophy by rendering it unprofitable, and, indeed, dangerous, to publish works devoted to them."

"That experience having repeatedly shown that trade, with artificially high profits and a small market, gains by being forced into the natural system of low profits and a large market, this meeting is of opinion that the abolition of the present restrictions, so far from injuring the bookselling business, will greatly benefit it."

It was then arranged that Mr. Dickens should forward a copy of the resolutions, with a letter, to Lord Campbell.

On the 19th inst. Lord Campbell delivered the judgment of the arbitrators to whom the dispute between the Booksellers' Association and the retail booksellers had been referred. This arbitration was entered into in pursuance of a resolution of a meeting of the Booksellers' Association on the 8th of April last; and the arbitrators chosen were Lord Campbell, Mr. Milman, and Mr. Grote. The judgment was delivered to a number of gentlemen, parties to the dispute, who met at Lord Campbell's house. The judgment begins by stating the import of the present regulations of the Booksellers' Association:—

"The substance of the regulations submitted to us we understand to be, that all booksellers keeping a shop in London, or within twelve miles of the General Post-office, are to become members of the association, and are to receive a ticket entitling them to buy new books from the publishers; that the publishers of new books specify a retail price for each copy; that they sell copies to the retail booksellers at about 30 per cent. under that price; that they require an engagement from the retail booksellers not to allow to their customers a larger discount than 10 per cent. from the retail price; that without this engagement, the retail dealers cannot be supplied with copies of new books; and that for a breach of this engagement they forfeit their tickets, and are cut off from any further dealings in new books with the publishers."

The arbitrators have "unanimously come to the conclusion that these regulations are unreasonable and inexpedient," and then proceeded to state the grounds of their opinion.

In the first place they think that

Such regulations seem *prima facie* to be indefensible, and contrary to the freedom which ought to prevail in commercial transactions. Although the owner of property may put what price he pleases upon it when selling it, the condition that the purchaser, after the property has been transferred to him, and he has paid the purchase-money, shall not resell it under a certain price, derogates from the right of ownership, which, as purchaser, he has acquired."

They then show that

"These regulations must, in practice, lead to vexatious inquiries and fraudulent evasions."

They point out that though the arrangement between the publishers and the retail booksellers is said to be voluntary, yet it may, in a considerable degree, be ascribed to coercion:

"Without the ticket, testifying that a retail bookseller is qualified to deal with the publisher, he cannot carry on his business as a vendor of new publications, and the means by which he lives are taken from him."

The arbitrators next disposed of the alleged *peculiarities* in the book-trade, which have been said to withdraw this trade from the operation of the general principles of commerce:

"The first peculiarity pointed out to us in the book trade is copyright; and it has been argued that as authors have protection, so ought those who circulate their works. The only protection given to authors is the protection which the law gives to property of every description. It has been decided by the most eminent judges that an author has at common law, and according to the eternal rules of justice, a property in what he writes, so that no one can print it or reprint it without his permission. The statutes which have been passed upon this subject from the reign of Queen Anne to the reign of Queen Victoria, have been in abridgment of the rights of authors, giving them, by way of compensation, improved remedies when their property is invaded.

"The next peculiarity pointed out in the book trade is that the article asked for by a purchaser must be genuine, and must always be of the same quality. But although there be no competition as to the quality of this article, we do not perceive why there may not be a competition as to the price at which it may be sold. And here the competition is less dangerous to the purchaser, for he is in no danger of having spurious wares palmed upon him when attracted by lowness of price.

"Then we are reminded of the peculiarity that the publisher names the price at which the book is to be sold to the customer (which may be considered the maximum price), whereas the manufacturer in other trades entirely leaves the price to be paid by the customer to be fixed by the retail dealer. Some complain of this proceeding of the publisher as a grievance. But admitting the expediency of the publisher continuing to name a retail price at which the book is said to be published, this can only be as a guide, and cannot hinder the making of a fair bargain between the retail dealer and the customer. At present, by the rules of the association, the actual retail price may vary from the publishing price, so that it is not more than 10 per cent. less.

"The consideration that has weighed most with us is the peculiar mode in which in the book trade the wares to be disposed of are distributed. There is no doubt a great advantage to literature in the existence of respectable booksellers' shops at reasonable distances in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, and all provincial towns. By the exertions of these gentlemen a new work is made known more efficiently than by advertisements; and the opportunity of inspecting a copy of it on the counter no doubt often produces a purchase which might not otherwise have been thought of. We cannot but apprehend that, if the regulations in question are done away with, and unlimited competition permitted, the number of retail establishments in the United Kingdom may be considerably diminished. But the existence of a larger number of retail establishments than is necessary to supply the commodity to the public has an evident tendency to raise the price to the consumer; and, according to all experience, the demand will increase as the price is diminished (though not perhaps to the extent contemplated by some of the more ardent opponents of the 'Regulations.') On the removal of an artificial protection in any department of industry some distress immediately follows; but the wholesome principles of commerce, when acted upon, ere long bring a remedy. And it may be hoped that competition and low prices, large sales, and quick returns (perhaps the greater energy and activity which may be enforced), may eventually add to the prosperity of the book trade, and increase the profits of all concerned in it."

"Lastly, it has been contended before us, that though the works of celebrated writers might be advantageously circulated and sold without the 'Regulations,' and the sale of such works be rather impeded by them, yet the works of unknown and second-rate writers, however useful and meritorious, could not, without a law against underselling, be ushered into the world. Even if this were so, we should still deny the justice of aiding dull men at the expense of men of genius; and with a view to public improvement, we should doubt the expediency of checking the circulation of that which is most excellent, to encourage that which gives less valuable information, and less exquisite pleasure. Moreover, we have reason to think that in many cases the 'Regulations' cramp the circulation of works which have merit, without being popular. The demand being small, the price would naturally decline, and at the reduced price there might still be a considerable number of purchasers. But as the *minimum* price fixed by the publisher must be rigidly insisted upon, the sale is stopped, and the great bulk of the edition, after causing a large expense for warehouse room, goes to the trunkmaker's."

For these reasons the arbitrators arrive at the conclusion—

"That the attempt to establish the alleged exceptional nature of the commerce of books has failed, and that it ought to be no longer carried on under these regulations."

They add:

"We neither intend to affirm, however, that excessive profits are received in any branch of the bookselling trade, nor do we impute blame to any class or individuals, although we consider that the system is faulty, and that the community would be sufferers by its continuance. We likewise wish it to be distinctly understood that our disapproval of the 'Regulations' extends only to the pretension of the publishers to dictate the terms on which the retail bookseller shall deal in his own shop, and to the means employed for enforcing the prescribed *minimum* price which he is ordered to demand from his customers. These being abandoned, it seems, from the language of the resolution under which we act, that the association must be dissolved."

The arbitrators decline to frame any new regulations, because this would be beyond their powers, and because "perhaps the bookselling trade will have the best chance of flourishing without special regulations of any sort." They conclude thus:

"Let there be entire freedom in the transactions between the publishers and the retail booksellers, the publishers asking prices and making or refusing allowances as they please. Let them deal with every one (although unticketed) who brings money in his purse, or whose responsibility is undoubted; taking care not to encourage the long and renewed credits which are said under the existing system to have produced so much mischief. The publishers are not bound to trust any one whom they believe to be sacrificing their wares by reckless underselling, or to be carrying on business without a profit sufficient for maintaining solvency. But let them not require any pledge from the retail dealer to whom they sell their books as to the price which he shall demand in reselling them. Thus, freedom of action, we hope, may tend to harmony and prosperity. We feel the most sincere respect and regard for the highly intellectual and honourable body of men who are engaged in the bookselling trade. As authors, we are deeply indebted to them for their valuable services. And we shall be amply rewarded for our labour and anxiety in this inquiry, if we can contribute in any degree to their permanent welfare, upon which we are convinced that the cause of literature in this country must essentially depend."

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

April 30th.—W. WYMARK, Mistley, Essex.—J. GULLICK, Yalding, brewer.—J. WARREN, Brentford, brass-manufacturer.—W. T. GIBSON, High-street, Islington, baker.—W. COLLINS, Marlborough, draper.—J. NEWBOLD, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.—A. M'KERROW, Hull, draper.

May 4th.—C. RITCHIE, Oxford-street, jeweller.—W. A. WATSON, Whitacre, Warwickshire, builder.—F. JAMES, Walsall, iron-founder.—J. EARP, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, brewer.—S. BENIAMS, jun., Hereford, grocer.—J. THOMAS WOODHOUSE, Leominster, scrivener.

May 7th.—J. MANDENO, Shoreditch, oilman.—J. THOMAS, Little Stanhope-street, builder.—J. BURLINGHAM, Worcester, milliner.—R. HALDING, Road, Beckington, Somersetshire, grocer.—C. W. WOODWORTH, Liverpool, victualler.

May 11th.—G. M. WETHERFIELD, Gresham-street, scrivener.—R. HADLAND, St. Helen's, glass-manufacturer.—J. H. COLLINS, Halifax, draper.

May 14th.—R. WHITE and J. BOWLER, Gloucester-street, Curtain-road, scale-board cutters.—T. THAME, Buckingham, innkeeper.—J. ABSELL, Cambridge-place, Hackney-road, upholsterer.—J. OSBORNE, Leigh, Essex, butcher.—E. DUBBINS, Colchester, brewer.—F. G. MONSARRAT, Duke-street, Grosvenor-square, wine-merchant.—S. TRIPP, Serjeant's Inn, scrivener.—H. BANKS, Bethnal-green-road, carpenter.—W. HOBLYN and F. P. HOBLYN, Cambridge, surgeons.—T. HEAD, Hanley, Staffordshire, apothecary.—W. COLLINS, Marlborough, draper.—W. B. FRANKISH, Hull, linen-draper.—H. BROADBENT, Dukinfield, grocer.

May 18th.—C. W. WASS, Bond-street, picture-dealer.—W. RUSSELL, Bethnal-green-road, draper.—H. CALVERT, Petersfield, Southampton, woollen-draper.—J. BANISTER, Birmingham, brass-founder.—J. PASSMAN, Stockton-upon-Tees, currier.

May 21st.—T. CROCKER, Wisbeach, sail-maker.—W. R. FEARN, Birmingham, draper.—J. ROBERTS, Aberystwyth, draper.—T. BATES & Co., Halifax, engineers.—J. M. HEALEY, Dewsbury, draper.—J. CUFF, Manchester, hotel and tavern keeper.

May 25th.—E. BARR, Grosvenor-street-west, Eaton-square, dress-maker.—J. BOWEN, Walsall, Staffordshire, currier.—H. BRET, Portsea, Hampshire, grocer.—H. BRIDGES, Canterbury, licensed victualler.—J. BURNLEY, Batley, Yorkshire, cloth-manufacturer.—J. B. CAPPER, Blackheath, Kent, chemist.—J. HICK, Wakefield, Yorkshire, corn-merchant.—W. V. MATTHEWS, Yeovil, Somersetshire, druggist.—A. PINNEBERG, Hertford, builder.—J. D. RANDALL and G. T. DICKS, Greek-street, Soho, leather-sellers.—F. SADLER, Fore-street, City, furnishing undertaker.—C. STANLEY, Hastings, Sussex, tailor.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

April 30th.—W. HARRIS, Hull, draper.

May 11th.—J. HAWORTH, Burnley, Lancashire, cotton-spinner.

MONEY MARKET.

The English Stock Market did not present a very buoyant appearance at the beginning of the month, owing to the uncertain state of parliamentary arrangements, and a fall on the Paris Bourse, caused by the confiscation of the Orleans property, neither has the time for the dissolution been since revealed. Parisian jobbers have also been holding their breath, until the

result of the visits of the Emperor of Russia to Vienna and Berlin has transpired. Stocks and Funds, British and foreign, have therefore, from these causes, been by no means brisk this month.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	99½	99½	99½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	99½	99½	99½
Three and a quarter per Cents. . .	101½	100½	101½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1890 . . .	6½	6½	6½
Bank Stock, 7 per cent. . . .	22½	219	221
India Stock	272	266	272
Exchequer Bills, £1000 . . .	67	62	66
India Bonds, under £1000 . .	84 p.m.	75	84 p.m.

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Belgian 4½ per cent., 99½	Peruvian 5 per cent., 99½
Brazilian 5 per cent., 99½	Portuguese 5 per cent., 100
Chilian 6 per cent., 104½	Russian 4½ per cent., 103½
Danish 5 per cent., 104½	Sardinian, 96½
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 93	Spanish new 3 per cent., deferred 20½
Mexican 5 per cent., 32	

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
100	Brighton and South Coast.	105	104½	104½
all	Blackwall	84½	7½	84½
50	Caledonian	20½	18½	18½
20	Eastern Counties	9	8½	9
50	Edinburgh and Glasgow .	34	32	32
all	Great Northern	20½	20	20
100	Great Western	92½	90½	90½
100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	72½	71	71
100	Midland	70½	67½	67½
25	North British	8½	7½	7½
all	North-Western	124	123	123
30	South-Eastern	21½	20½	20½
25	York, Newcastle, and Berwick	18½	17½	17½
50	York and North Midland	25½	23½	23½

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Orleans, 47
Dutch Rhenish, 3½ dis.	Paris and Rouen, 30
East Indian, 22½	Paris and Strasbourg, 21½
Namur and Liege, 6½	Rouen and Havre, 11
Northern of France, 23½	Tours and Nantes, 11½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 41s. 3d.; Oats, 19s. 10d.; Rye, 30s.; Beans, 31s.; Peas, 29s. 2d.; Flour per sack, 40s. to 43s.; American, per barrel of 196 lbs., 20s. to 22s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt.—Limerick, 65s.; Belfast, 66s.	Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.
Beef, per tierce, prime mess, 70s. to 110s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 60s.; Irish, 40s. to 63s.; Westphalia, 48s. to 52s.
Butter, per cwt.—Carlow, 1st, 72s. to 82s.; Waterford, 1st, 74s. to 78s.; Dutch Friesland, 70s. to 72s.; Limerick, 1st, 70s. to 74s.	Mutton, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 40s. to 54s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 31s. to 39s.; American, 40s. to 46s.	Pork, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 3s. 8d.; American, new, per barrel, 49s. to 50s.
	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Ware, 45s. to 76s.; Kent and Essex Midding, 24s. to 26s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. in bond. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 25s. to 44s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 26s.	Sago, per cwt. in bond.—Pearl, 15s. to 17s. 6d.
Coffee, per cwt. in bond.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 43s. to 73s.; Mocha, 85s. to 93s.; St. Domingo, 39s. to 41s.; Sumatra, 37s. to 39s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica, 30s. 6d. to 40s.; Mauritius, brown, 24s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; Brazil, 28s. 6d. to 40s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal mid. to fine white, 8s. 6d. to 11s. 6d.; Madras, 7s. 6d. to 9s.	Tea, per lb. in bond.—Ord. Congou, 8½d. to 1s. 4d.; Souchong, com. to fine, 8d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 8d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.

Candles, per 12 lb., 4s.

Coals, per ton, 16s.

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 31½ 10s.	Olve, Gallipoli, 43½ to 44½
Sperm, 80½ to 89½	Linseed, 27½ 6s.
Cod, 34½ to 37½ 10s.	

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.]

FROM THE 27TH MAY TO THE 28TH JUNE.

[PRICE 2d.]

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

A FULL report of political progress since our last Narrative, ample as if contained in a blue-backed folio, could say no more than that we have advanced a month nearer to the General Election. That is the goal to which everything has tended. Nothing has been acted or said that has not had direct reference to the hustings, the Tapers and Tadpoles have done their best, and several good *cries* have gone to the country.

Nevertheless nothing is in danger, except the seats of a few honourable gentlemen. What Mr. Disraeli calls, with great love and unction, in his addresses to the farmers of Bucks, our Protestant Crown, might really have seemed to be, from the loudness of the shouts raised to its rescue, in some little peril. But closer inquiry shows there is nothing alarming. For example, the Colonial Minister and others, with a shrewd electoral look out at Exeter Hall, made speeches upon the Frome Vicarage case prophetic of direful consequences to protestant bishops who should institute to protestant livings men of more than doubtful protestant faith; but afterwards came in Mr. Gladstone, and, with as shrewd regard to his own electors at Oxford, saved the bishop more particularly in question by the odd expedient of insisting on his immediate impeachment; whereupon the protestant fire of the Commons' house which had just flared up to inconvenient warmth, fanned by a majority of votes as well as speeches, was left to burn itself out, and poor Mr. Horsman, not feeling himself equal to an impeachment, took nothing at all by the success of his more moderate motion, and the Frome Vicarage case came to nothing. Just so it has been with Maynooth. After a series of speeches that left not unbespattered a single spot of the scarlet dress of her who sitteth on the seven hills, Mr. Spooner quietly took up his hat and wished the old lady good evening, not having the heart to subject her to further inconvenience. What remains to be done the electors are expected to do. In like manner with Education. When it was unexpectedly announced the other day that the education question between Church and State, so long in agitation, had been settled by unqualified surrender to the Church of everything in dispute, it was feared that some immediate and overpowering necessity must exist for so sacrificing the interests of the laity, till Lord Derby's explanation that the change was not to take effect till the new parliament should have had an opportunity of voting on it, reduced the momentous announcement to a mere election manoeuvre. And, whatever sensible people may think of the propriety of popish priests carrying their images and frippery through the streets of protestant cities, who gives any higher motive than a hustings one to the Proclamation of the other day against them?

Whether the hustings has been as judiciously appealed to in Lord Malmesbury's blundering assent to a Treaty with M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, by

which not only Frenchmen of liberal opinions would no longer have been safe in England, but Englishmen politically suspected would no longer have been safe in France, from which treaty he only at last escaped by flatly turning tail on his own proposal;—whether the electors have been propitiated equally by Lord Derby's announced determination to let affairs take their own way at the Cape;—whether the Militia Bill will be found, without any kind of drawback, an attractive novelty commanding popular gratitude;—whether the money clauses and other clauses in the New Zealand Government Bill will be as agreeable to everybody, here and there, as to the late New Zealand Company;—and finally, whether the amendment by the Lords, nullifying in effect the Corrupt Voters Punishment Bill, will be as pleasant to the electors of Birmingham and the West Riding as to those of Norwich and Harwich;—all this is open to doubt.

On the other hand it admits of no doubt whatever that the case of Mr. Mather has not been managed in a way that is likely to be well received at any polling place in the country, be its colours blue or yellow, orange or green. Generally, it may be premised, we have not a praiseworthy style of managing such matters. We carry into them too much of mere shopkeeping. We protect the honour of our subjects abroad too much after the fashion that we use to protect the honour of our wives at home. We enforce our *civis Romanus sum* by making foreign governments pay, and it is at times an awkward precedent. An English gentleman was bastinadoed at Sentari, and we made the Turk salve his battered soles with money. M. Pacifico watched the case with interest, saw a means of turning it to account in a little matter of his own, and managed in the end to turn the laugh also hugely against us. But Mr. Mather's case threatens consequences a thousand times worse than Don Pacifico's. In the first place, the position in respect of Italian affairs which we hold to Austria, is infinitely more delicate than any in which we could possibly have stood to poor little insignificant Greece. To have Austrian officers saluting an Englishman in the most polished capital of Tuscany, is on all hands confessed to be no small matter, in whatever light the question of redress is viewed. Lord Malmesbury consenting to view it only in one light, as a matter of pecuniary compensation, it became in the next place obvious that the efficiency of the reparation, the satisfaction to the national honour, would depend wholly on the more or the less. This being admittedly so when the damage is to property, how much more should it be held so when personal outrage is in question. The amount demanded is in truth everything, if it be once determined that the demand should take that shape at all. It really would have been a confession of wrong, and a redress of it, to pay five thousand pounds, when to offer two hundred was neither more nor less than an insult. But

unhappily Lord Malmesbury, who appears to have felt this at last, did not feel it at first; and not having felt it at first, he is now trying to repair his original want of apprehension, and all the grievous blunders that have followed it, by threatening to recall our minister from Tuscany. Not a step has the Mather case made since our last, therefore, even in the direction of the polling-booths. It has retrograded, not advanced.

The end to the lamentable imbroglio, indeed, no one can at present foresee. But it somewhat oddly happens that the recall of an English minister from Tuscany—a thing now made probable by Lord Malmesbury, and at all times, one would have thought, an infinitesimally unimportant thing—would unquestionably, at this moment, be inconvenient and unwise. For the first time these many years, an English representative has positively business in Tuscany. Austria happens to be now using the most strenuous efforts to extend her tariff, and form a large Customs Union, of which, over Italy on the one side and Germany on the other, she is to have undisputed control. To effect this, the Grand Duke has been placed under violent pressure; to which he so reluctantly yields, that the steady support of an English minister would in all probability give him the requisite strength to make even yet a successful resistance. Now, there is an old saying about the folly of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face; and if Lord Malmesbury succeeds in making it the issue of the Mather affair, that English commerce, with English influence, should at so critical a moment be excluded from the Italian peninsula, he will have added a notable illustration of that ancient saw to those other diplomatic efforts which bid fair to make his foreign administration memorable.

The history of the past month, deadened by these dull intrigues of electioneering politics, would have been nearly blank of life and interest but for a remarkable trial between two renegade priests. Dr. Newman, who made one of the earliest steps from Oxford to Rome, libelled Dr. Achilli, formerly a Dominican monk in Italy, now an Evangelical preacher in a small chapel in London, and Achilli brought an action against his accuser. The charges were, if proved, of a character to blast the prospects of any minister of any sect; some of them were so gross that the mere report in the newspapers of the details sworn to is not calculated to improve public morals. The verdict of the jury went against the accuser, and, technically, in favour of the accused.

The Colonial-office has had a busy month of it. Besides the New Zealand Bill, they have had to deal with a list of grievances from Australia; a blacker list of wrongs from Jamaica; and one or two troublesome evidences of tyranny in the Ionian islands. Emigration goes on, not "steadily" (for that hackneyed adjective is now quite worn out as applied to emigration), but frantically. It has become a mania. Gold is, of course, the main attraction; but the diggings themselves appear to have, when people get to them, a repellent power. One successful "prospector" writes that several new comers, peeping into the holes whence the precious metal is dug, and seeing the gold-seekers working up to their middles in water, have immediately turned back without further experiment or consideration.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

ON Thursday, May 27th, the Earl of MALMESBURY (in answer to Earl Fitzwilliam) announced the termination of *Mr. Mather's case*. The outrage had not been prompted by any anti-English feeling on the part

of the Austrian officer, and Mr. Mather had received a pecuniary compensation, as large as the damages he would probably have recovered in an English court of justice.

On the following day the *Case of Mr. Mather* once more gave rise to a discussion, owing to the publication of some correspondence on the subject in the papers of that morning.—The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that the letter purporting to be addressed to him by Mr. Mather, sen., complaining of the course which had been adopted by the government, and which formed a portion of the published correspondence, had never been received by him, either at his official or private residence. As the case was now concluded, he would lay the whole correspondence upon the table of the house, and would leave their lordships to judge whether they had or not acted as became the honour of the country.

The house adjourned for the Whitsun Holidays.

On Monday, June 7th, the Duke of NEWCASTLE put a question to the government on the subject of the *Constitution to be granted to the Cape of Good Hope*, and after strongly intimating his opinion that the raising of the franchise in that colony from 25*l.* to 50*l.*, which had been proposed and carried by the Colonial Secretary, was impolitic and injurious to the interests of the colony, he asked whether her Majesty's ministers intended to disallow or to sanction the alteration? He also wished to know whether the Cape was to have an elective or a nominee upper chamber?—The Earl of DERBY said the ordinances had not yet been received in this country, and the government had suspended their opinion on the subject till they could have the advantage of revising them along with the observations of the new Governor-General Cathcart.

On Tuesday, June 8th, the Earl of MALMESBURY moved the second reading of a bill to carry into effect the articles of the convention between England and France for the *Mutual Surrender of Criminal Offenders*, and explained that the measure did not extend to political offenders.—The Earl of ALBERDEEN concurred in the general principle of the bill, but took exception to many of its details.—Lord CAMPBELL complained of the novel principle of making the mere warrant of the French authorities and identification, without proof or reasonable suspicion of guilt, sufficient evidence for the surrender of persons from under the protection of English law.—Lord BROUGHAM and other peers joined in the objection, and the LORD CHANCELLOR promised to consider the point in committee.—Lord CRANWORTH was of opinion that the bill was wrong in principle, and that no change in detail could render it tolerable.—After some further discussion the motion was agreed to.

On Thursday, June 10th, Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition complaining of the *Distressed State of Jamaica*, from the judges and bar of that island.—Earl GREY protested against that part of the petition which declared that the effect of the measures of 1816 and 1848 had been an increase in the slave trade.—The Bishop of OXFORD on the other hand, asserted that the effect of those measures had been a large increase in that traffic.—Similar petitions having been presented from the islands of Antigua and the Mauritius, and from British Guiana, the Earl of DERBY said that he had received not a petition, but a memorial from clergymen of all denominations in Jamaica, bearing witness not only to the distress which prevailed in the colony, but also to the barbarism into which a large proportion of the coloured community were rapidly relapsing. In his opinion, the only effectual remedy for colonial distress would be to stop the progress of the reduction in the differential duties on sugar, for, in spite of the assertion of Lord Grey, he believed that it was not possible to produce sugar by free labour to compete on equal terms with slave labour. At the same time he confessed that he entertained great doubt whether the public mind of this country was prepared to satisfy the economic interests which might be involved in such a proposition.

On Friday, June 11th, the Earl of DERBY, in reply to a question from the Marquis of Lansdowne, stated that a minute had been agreed to in privy council for the purpose of admitting to a participation in the *Grants for*

National Schools those members of the established church who have hitherto been prevented by conscientious scruples from availing themselves of the aid so afforded.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE complained that no intimation of the intention of the government to make this alteration had been given to the House of Commons before the grant in question was voted.—After some observations from Earl Grey, the Earl of DERBY expressed his readiness to promise that no money should be applied under the minute until parliament should have had an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the subject.

In Committee on the *Surrender of Criminals Bill*, the Earl of MALMESBURY proposed a new arrangement, which he hoped would remove the jealous fears expressed in a former sitting of the house as to the liberty of the subject. Having conferred with the French Ambassador, he proposed that no prisoner should be surrendered to the French Government till our Secretary of State should first have the *pièce d'accusation* or mise en accusation, with a certificate from the Juge d'Instruction—that officer being a judge independent of the Executive.—Lord CAMPBELL suggested, doubtfully, that the Juge d'Instruction is removable.—Lord BROUGHAM observed, that they did not know the real effect of the mise en accusation, or the process by which the judge issued his mandat d'arrêt on the *pièces d'accusation*. Other Peers—the Earl of ABERDEEN, Earl GRANVILLE, and the Duke of ARGYLL—made critical observations on the measure. At last it was resolved to agree to the amendments, that they might be printed, and seen as they would affect the bill.

Lord LYNDEHURST presented a *Petition from the Baron de Bode*, and moved for a Select Committee to inquire into its allegations. The Earl of DERBY, who himself brought forward the wrongs of the Baron twenty-four years ago, assented to the Committee. It was opposed by Earl GREY; but the house granted it.

On Monday, June 14th, on the motion for committing the *Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill*, the Earl of DERBY objected that the bill allowed an investigation into alleged corrupt practices in any borough to be instituted on a vote of the house of commons instead of an address to the crown, concurred in by the house of lords. He also intimated that he should move amendments exempting counties and universities and limiting the power of inquiry into consecutive elections to cases where the bribery was practised continuously, and excepting those where a pure election intervened. He should also oppose that provision which placed treating on the same footing with bribery. In committee the noble lord's first amendment requiring the assent of the house of lords to the issuing of any commission of inquiry was carried, after discussion, by 78 to 34 votes. Another division was taken against the provision which classes bribery and treating together, and Lord Stanley's amendment was carried by 68 to 35 votes.

The Earl of MALMESBURY informed the house that the government had determined to withdraw the *Surrender of Criminals Bill*, on the ground of a serious alteration which has just taken place in the law of France. Under that law as it now stands, the French government would seem to have the power to reclaim any criminal from any part of the world wherever he committed the offence,—though it were not committed on French ground, and though the party were not a Frenchman.—Lord BROUGHAM—"Yes; an Englishman in London."—Lord MALMESBURY considered that to pass such a bill now would be extremely dangerous; and he announced that the government has for the present suspended the further progress of the measure.

On Tuesday, June 15th, the Earl of DERBY moved the second reading of the *Militia Bill*, and having explained its provisions, expressed his confidence that their lordships would give effect to a measure which had come up to them backed by such overwhelming majorities of the commons. He disclaimed any apprehension of immediate attack from foreign powers, or of hostile feelings on the part of the President of France, as justifying the measure, but seeing the numerous changes of government that had taken place in France, and the large number of persons there who were opposed to order and tranquillity, and actuated by feelings of

hostility to England, it would be folly and madness to wait for the contingency, however remote, of invasion before making the necessary preparations for our defence and security.—The Duke of WELLINGTON said he was the last man to hesitate as to the relative merits of well-disciplined and half-disciplined troops. The things were not to be compared at all. You could have confidence that the disciplined troops would perform what they were ordered to do, while with undisciplined troops the chances were that they would do the very reverse of what was expected from them. But on this occasion the state of the country must be considered, which, though at peace with all the world, had never, so far as its army was concerned, maintained a proper peace establishment. Let us, then, while we are at peace, make a beginning and return to the militia, our old constitutional peace establishment.—After some observations from Earl GREY, the bill was read a second time.

On Friday, June 18th, the *Navy Pay Bill* was read a second time.

Lord BEAUMONT moved for a copy of the information on which the warrant had been issued for the apprehension of the *Baroness Von Berck*.—The Lord CHANCELLOR said he had received a communication from the mayor and magistrates of Birmingham, expressing their anxiety to have the whole subject investigated.—The motion was agreed to.

Earl FITZWILLIAM moved for a return of the entire sum awarded to the claimants upon the *French Compensation Fund*, and of the sum remaining in hand after the payment of the last award, and the manner in which that sum was appropriated.—After a few words from the Earl of DERBY the motion was agreed to.

The Duke of ARGYLL presented a petition similar to that presented to the commons on the preceding day, from the legislature of New South Wales, claiming *Self-government and the sole control of all matters of Finance and Land*.—Earl GREY was of opinion that the constitution possessed by the colony was in all respects as free as in its present state it had a right to demand.

On Monday, June 21, Lord BEAUMONT brought forward the *Case of Mr. Mather*, and a discussion ensued, similar to that which had taken place in the house of commons. The Earl of MALMESBURY defended his own conduct; and the Earl of DERBY declared that he shared in Lord Malmesbury's responsibility, having all along been cognisant of his proceedings.

On Tuesday, June 22, the Earl of DESART moved the second reading of the *New Zealand Bill*, which was agreed to without a division, after some observations from the Dukes of Newcastle, Earl Grey, and others.

On Thursday, June 24, the Earl of DERBY, in answer to Lord Torrington, intimated that a Treasury minute was about to issue prohibiting the *Mixing of Chicory with Coffee*, but allowing its separate sale.—A discussion took place on the standing order which requires four-fifths of the shareholders to assent to any measure of *Railway Amalgamation*. It was urged by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Lyndhurst, and others, that the order gave a minority power to defeat projects of great public advantage, as in the recent case of the proposed amalgamation between the Shrewsbury and Birmingham and Shrewsbury and Chester companies, by which the Great Western chain of communication was sought to be completed.—Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY suggested that the remedy might be met by requiring that no shareholder should vote unless he had held his shares for a certain time before the voting. Ultimately the question was referred to the consideration of the standing orders committee.

On Friday, June 25, the Earl of MALMESBURY being interrogated by the Marquis of Clanricarde, stated that no correspondence had taken place with the government of France, in reference to the withdrawal of the extradition bill, but that government, acting in the friendly spirit which had characterised them in their relations with this country since the present ministry had come into office, had stated, when they found the opposition

against the bill so severe, that they would not persevere in requiring the execution of the convention. The purpose of the bill was to carry out a convention agreed to by the late government, and he had naturally anticipated their support.

The *New Zealand Bill* passed through committee.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Thursday, May 27th, Lord STANLEY, in reply to questions put by Lord D. Stuart and other members, gave full details of the *Case of Mr. Murray*, the sum of which was, that upon a charge of having connived at murders committed at Ancona, he had been arrested by order of the Papal government, detained in prison from July 1849 until November, 1851, tried by a special tribunal, convicted, and sentenced to death, the execution of which sentence he was, according to the last advices, awaiting at Ancona; and that the British consul at that city had been instructed to use every effort to procure at least a mitigation of the sentence.

On Friday, May 28, some discussion took place respecting the above case. Lord D. STUART thought the British authorities had not paid sufficient attention to the matter to ensure Mr. Murray a fair trial.—Lord STANLEY contended that there was no ground for assuming that Mr. Murray's case had been neglected. At the present time every effort was being made by the British government to protect Mr. Murray from being made the victim of injustice—if any such injustice had been practised towards him.—Lord PALMERSTON gave his willing testimony to the zeal and activity exhibited by the British authorities in the case of Mr. Murray. In reference to British relations with the Court of Rome, he reminded the house that that court had never refused to receive a British minister charged with a specific and temporary duty. The house adjourned to Thursday the 3rd of June.

On that day the house resumed its sittings. A discussion took place on the subject of the *State of Public Business*, in the course of which Sir James GRAHAM accused the government of having brought forward a number of measures which were not of immediate urgency, and which could not receive proper deliberation in the course of the present session. After enumerating these bills, he concluded by saying that, if care were not taken, such proceedings would bring representative government into disrepute. After some observations from different members, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that on Monday he would state what were the intentions of the government with respect to the public business. The house then went into committee of supply upon the *Civil Service Estimates*. Certain votes were agreed to, after much discussion, in the course of which a conversation of some interest occurred on the vote for the combined system of *National Education in Ireland*.—Mr. WALPOLE having disavowed any intention on the part of the government to supersede the system, Sir J. GRAHAM pressed him to say not merely what was not, but what was, their intention.—Mr. WALPOLE replied that he thought it was worthy of consideration whether some portion of the grant might not be applied to those who from conscientious motives objected to the present mode of distribution.

On Friday, June 4, on the motion for the house resolving itself into committee on the *New Zealand Government Bill*, Sir John PAKINGTON explained to the house the alterations which he contemplated making in the bill, in order that it might confer upon the colonists the best possible government consistent with a due regard to imperial considerations. He had received suggestions from several quarters of the house with a view to the improvement of the measure, and had had some consultation also on the subject with gentlemen from New Zealand. He had given an anxious consideration to these suggestions and opinions, which related chiefly to two points—the mode of appointing the superintendents, and the manner in which the New Zealand land company was to be dealt with. As regarded the appointment of the superintendents, he proposed that, instead of being appointed by the governor, they should

be elected by the same constituencies that elected the members of the legislature, and that their salaries should be left to be decided upon by the principal legislature. In reference to the New Zealand land company, he was of opinion that he was bound by the agreement which was sanctioned by the act of 1847. He was not answerable for that agreement, and even if it was a very favourable one for the company, he thought himself bound, nevertheless, to see that the company should not by this bill be placed in a worse position than they were placed in by that act. He would, therefore, not insist on the stipulation that 5s. per acre on all lands sold should be paid to the company, which might affect their interests unfavourably, but would propose that one-fourth of the proceeds of all sales of land should be paid to the company. The right hon. baronet drew attention to the likelihood of gold being found in New Zealand, and said that in anticipation of such an event he had drawn up a clause, giving to the local legislatures the power of dealing with the revenues to be thereby derived, in accordance with the rule which the government had arrived at with respect to the Australian colonies, and the advices relative to which decision he had forwarded to Australia by Thursday's mail.—The house then went into committee. The clauses up to 74 were agreed to, after which the house resumed.

On Monday, June 7th, Mr. BERNAL took occasion to advert to the *Calamitous Condition of the Island of Jamaica*, through the deficiency of labourers; and to inquire of the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he was prepared to initiate, or promote, or confirm any effort for affording Jamaica, and other colonies in the same category, a proper supply of labour?—Sir J. PAKINGTON said, that the question having been put to him unexpectedly, he could return only a general answer. This subject had engaged his attention long before he had entered into office, and since then he had received from delegates and from other sources painful representations of the distressed condition of the island of Jamaica, and of the particular causes of that distress. The cholera, being a visitation of Providence, did not touch the legislation or policy of this country; but, irrespective of that visitation, he had always thought that the distress of the colonies must be traced in a large degree to the policy adopted by this country in 1846. Upon a careful consideration of the subject, however, her Majesty's government did not think themselves justified, under the circumstances, and in their present position, in making the case of Jamaica, painful as it was, an exception to the general rule they had laid down. The duties of the Colonial office had been overwhelming, but three or four days ago he had communicated with one of the senior clerks of the West India department of that office, and had desired him, as soon as the pressure of business relaxed, to prepare all the necessary papers, in order that he (Sir John) might direct his attention as speedily as possible to two important points,—the supply of labour, and the present state of the labour laws in the colonies.—The report of the *Committee of Supply* was then brought up and agreed to.—The house then went again into committee of supply on the *Civil Service Estimates*, which occupied the remainder of the morning sitting.

At the evening sitting, some explanations were given by Sir J. PAKINGTON as to the negotiations respecting the *British American Railway*, similar to those given in the house of lords by the Earl of Derby.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in fulfilment of his promise to state the views of the government in respect to the *Business before the House*, adverted to the speech of Sir J. Graham on Thursday night, which was calculated, he said, to arrest public attention, and to produce considerable effect upon the house. According to the right hon. baronet, the state of public business in that house was highly unsatisfactory, there being, he stated, a vast accumulation of matters of a highly important and pressing character, whence he had inferred that there was reason to apprehend that representative government itself might be brought into disrepute. Sir James had very properly laid stress upon the bills for legal reform—the Common Law Procedure Bill, the Equitable Jurisdiction Bill, and the Masters in Chancery Abolition Bill; all of which had been read a second

time; while the Sutors in Chancery Relief Bill and the Law of Wills Amendment Bill had passed that house. Her Majesty's government, therefore, were not arrogant, he thought, in supposing that these five bills for legal reform would pass into law without interfering with the termination of parliament. Then came the colonial bills, of which the New Zealand Bill had nearly got through committee; the Hereditary Casual Revenues in the Colonies Bill, of only two clauses, the government hoped they would be as successful in passing, as well as the Bishopric of Quebec Bill, and the Colonial Bishops Bill, both of which were of small dimensions, and had passed the other house. Then there were three bills in the department of the Board of Works—namely, the Intramural Interments Bill, the Metropolitan Water Bill, and the Metropolitan Buildings Bill. The two former he did not despair of passing without unduly prolonging the session. With respect to the last, he was prepared to move that the order for the second reading of that bill be discharged. Sir James had further called the attention of the house to the state of the supply, remarking that 200 votes had to be passed. Of these votes, however, there now remained only nineteen. Of the other miscellaneous bills noticed by Sir James, the Navy Pay Bill was not opposed; the Patent Law Amendment Bill had already passed the lords, and had been referred in this house to a committee. Of Irish bills, the Valuation of Lands Bill he heard from all sides was a very good bill, and he was not prepared to give that up; but the Whiteboy Acts Amendment Bill he did not wish to press. There were certain continuance bills, among which was the Crime and Outrage Act, which it was the opinion of the government should be renewed. He had now gone through, he said, the colossal catalogue of the right hon. baronet, and he asked the house whether the state of business before it was so unsatisfactory as had been painted on Thursday night? He drew a different conclusion from that of Sir J. Graham, and deduced an opposite moral; believing that the state of the public business—which was due to the good sense and good temper of the house of commons—afforded rather an argument in favour of representative government, at least of the mode in which it was conducted in this country.

On the order for the third reading of the *Militia Bill*, Mr. RICH, in moving by way of amendment that it be deferred for six months, reiterated at much length his objections to the measure, strongly urging the expediency of deferring it for the calmer consideration of a new parliament. He hoped that no member would vote under the delusion that it was better to do something, no matter what. A wrong might be done which would prevent the doing right hereafter. Let the legislature, therefore, take time for deliberation, and postpone the measure for another year.—Mr. MACKINNON seconded this motion.—Lord H. VANE should vote for the third reading of the bill, in the absence of any alternative proposition, and with the intention of supporting the motion to be made for expunging the compulsory clauses.—Mr. MACGREGOR supported the amendment, in order to afford time for maturing a better plan.—Mr. HEADLAM and Mr. EWART opposed the measure.—Sir H. VERNER supported the bill, though not exactly what he desired, advocating at the same time other measures of military defence, including a small addition to the regular army, especially of rifle corps.—Mr. OSBORNE said the objections he entertained to this bill were not founded upon the principles of the peace party. These principles, however, were not novel; they were as old as Plato. But there was a material distinction between armies for conquest and for home protection. Even the Utopians were allowed to fight in self-defence. Looking at the state of the continent of Europe, he thought we were right to review our means of defence. The government were, however, bound to show the condition of our national defences, and the manner in which the large sums of money voted had been expended. After stating certain details of our military expenditure, and comparing them with the expenditure for the French army, Mr. Osborne argued that there must be something wrong; that the money voted could not have been laid out to the best advantage, and that the house should defer the bill until this matter had been investigated.

He then entered upon a humorous criticism of the measure—a trumpety abortion, as he termed it—which he said would raise not an efficient military force, but an irregular horde. He hoped the house would reject a bill which would be of no use to the country, and which had been concocted in the hurried scramble of a party for office.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said, the highest military authorities, including the Commander-in-Chief and the Master-General of the Ordnance, agreed that it was essentially necessary, at the present time, to add to our national defences; and by both sides of the house it had been admitted that this was to be done, not by increasing our standing army, but by raising a militia force.—Mr. PETO objected to the bill that, while an inefficient measure, it would interrupt industry. Upon a division, the third reading was carried by 220 against 148.—Mr. THORNLEY moved to add a proviso at the end of clause 18, exempting members of the senate of the university of London, examiners, professors, tutors, lecturers, and students of that university, or of any college, school, or institution connected therewith; and resident members of the university of Durham.—Mr. WALPOLE consented, and proposed to add St. David's college, Lampeter.—The proviso was added to the bill.—Mr. W. WILLIAMS moved the omission of the 16th clause.—Mr. WALPOLE resisted the motion, which, upon a division, was negatived by 187 against 142.—Sir De Laey EVANS moved a clause after the 34th, retaining the provisions of the 44th George III., chap. 54, applying to the enrolment of corps of yeomanry and volunteers; which was agreed to.—A proviso to the 35th clause, also moved by Sir De Laey, the purport of which was to limit the ballot to a time of war, was negatived upon a division by 178 against 82. The bill then passed.

On Tuesday, June 8, at the morning sitting, the adjourned debate on *Maynooth College* was resumed by Mr. FRESHFIELD, who remarked that the motion for inquiry had not been opposed upon any general ground; had it been to repeal the act of 1845, he could understand why it should be resisted, but all that was asked was an inquiry whether certain allegations as to the teaching at Maynooth were true, or rather, whether there should be an inquiry which, according to Mr. Sergeant Murphy, would only redound to the credit of the college. The conscientious doubts of the people of England, as to whether the objects of the institution were fairly carried out and the grant was properly applied, ought to be set at rest. The course of those who advocated the motion was not aggressive, but defensive.—Mr. H. HERBERT, in opposing the motion of Mr. Spooner, proposed to test his sincerity by inviting him to adopt, instead of that motion, an amendment which he (Mr. Herbert) had put upon the notice paper, but which he was precluded from moving, to intrust the inquiry to the visitors of the college with such additional visitation as the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland might deem necessary—a tribunal constituted by parliament and extremely well adapted for the purpose.—Sir W. VERNER, in support of the original motion, argued that it was casting no imputation upon the College of Maynooth to affirm that the government should have the supervision of such an institution, endowed by the state. It was established for the education of young men as clergymen in the church of Rome; and was it not fit that the country should know the description of instruction they received, and to what section of the Roman Catholic church Maynooth professed to belong? It had been stated that it was of the ultramontane school, in which the authority of the Pope was exalted far above the Sovereign's, and that the most rancorous intolerance was taught there. Sir William read statements in respect to denunciations from the altar, followed often by an attack upon the individual denounced; the agitating propensities of the Maynooth priests, and the doctrines inculcated at the college; in the course of reading which he was interrupted somewhat roughly by Captain Magan.—Mr. V. SCULLY adopted Mr. Herbert's objection, that an inquiry, if really desired, could be had *instantly* by the existing visitors. But the mover and seconder of the motion, he contended, were not sincere in their demand for an inquiry; their avowed

object was to get rid of the college altogether. He had no objection to a bona fide inquiry, but he did object to one that was unfair and insulting. If the motion was not a mere sham, if an honest inquiry was really sought, let it be either by a royal commission, or by the visitors, persons of distinguished rank and character, who had an inherent power under the act to examine upon oath all persons, and into all matters. With respect to the grant itself—this miserable and wretched grant, as Mr. Scully termed it—he maintained that the people of Ireland were entitled to it, not only upon the ground of compact, but upon the stronger grounds of policy and justice. To establish this part of his argument, Mr. Scully produced a long array of historical authorities, which, with a very comprehensive survey of the character and effects of the penal laws, and an examination of the history of the Maynooth college from its first endowment in 1795, occupied the time until four o'clock, when, though his speech was still unfinished, by a recent rule of the house, the sitting terminated.

At the evening sitting, Mr. HORSMAN, in moving for a select committee to inquire into the circumstances connected with the *Institution of the Rev. Mr. Bennett to the Vicarage of Frome*, referred to what had occurred at a previous debate upon this subject, which, he contended, showed clearly and distinctly that his motion was understood to be directed, not against Mr. Bennett, but against the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The result of the *bona fide* inquiry promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that it was doubtful whether, under the Clergy Discipline Act, Mr. Bennett could be made amenable; but in regard to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, it was acknowledged that there was no redress whatever at law against him for instituting Mr. Bennett. After giving some further details in vindication and corroboration of the statements he had made as to the proceedings of Mr. Bennett at Kissingen, and his alleged Romanist tendencies, Mr. Horsman addressed himself to the conduct of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in comparison with whose acts, he said, those of Mr. Bennett were perfectly insignificant. What he had already charged against the bishop fell short of the truth. He had instituted Mr. Bennett in a manner and with a haste which showed a determination to shut out the parishioners of Frome from the legal redress which they would have had if more time had been allowed; he had done it without the certificate from Mr. Bennett's former diocesan, which by law he was under an obligation to require, and without that due examination of the presentee which was enjoined by law, and which the parishioners had a right to demand. All this was done, he averred, not accidentally or carelessly, but advisedly, and in order to defeat the ends of justice. In support of these charges, Mr. Horsman entered into a minute exposition of the proceedings in connection with the institution of Mr. Bennett, in the course of which he read a letter from the Bishop of London, appended to the certificate, in favour of Mr. Bennett, of three beneficed clergymen in his diocese, which acquitted this right reverend prelate, he observed, of being a party in misleading or deceiving the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Ascertaining from the judicial opinion of Lord Ellenborough the legal import of the words "due examination," Mr. Horsman insisted that the avowed and published sentiments of Mr. Bennett imposed upon the diocesan, before instituting him, the obligation of requiring an explanation—some of those sentiments touching the supremacy of the crown in spiritual matters, and that such explanation should have been made public. Instead, however, of demeaning himself as an impartial judge, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, he alleged, had sunk the dignity of that office in the littleness of the partisan. The question then was, what is to be done? It had been admitted by the government that the importance of the subject could not be exaggerated; and no other mode of inquiry being available, he was driven, after long delay, to propose a parliamentary committee. There was no duty of parliament more obvious than, when it had established a church for the teaching of one religion, to take care that it should not be made subservient to the doctrines of another. The responsibility of this question, there-

fore, now rested upon parliament alone.—Mr. GLADSTONE, regarding this as mainly a legal question, objected to the tone and spirit of Mr. Horsman's speech. Having taken upon himself the character of a public accuser, he was bound to be accurate in the language he used. The wounds of the Church of England were not likely to be healed by rhetorical declamations and misstatements. The first question to be considered was, is the country to be governed, in ecclesiastical and civil matters, by the private opinions of particular men, according to the popularity of the moment; or by a system of fixed law? If the last, had the law been obeyed? He admitted that it was a great absurdity that there was no provision for the correction of delinquent bishops: but he asserted that the Bishop of Bath and Wells was not a delinquent, that there was not even a presumption of delinquency against him. Mr. Gladstone laid much stress upon the sentiments expressed by the parishioners of Frome in favour of Mr. Bennett, the rational inference from which fact, he thought, was, that he had become steady in his allegiance to the church of England. He briefly noticed the proceedings of Mr. Bennett at Kissingen, which, he contended, were not within the proper cognisance of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then examined the three charges preferred by Mr. Horsman against that right reverend prelate, every one of which, he asserted, was without foundation. A bishop was not at liberty to refuse institution to a presentee but upon strict legal proof of heretical doctrine, immoral conduct, or defect of learning; he was liable to be called into the Court of Queen's Bench by a writ of *Quare impedit*, and if he failed in proving a ground of refusal he suffered in costs. In the case of Mr. Bennett no legal ground had been laid before the Bishop of Bath and Wells which would have justified him in refusing or delaying the institution of that gentleman. With respect to the second charge—the want of a certificate from the Bishop of London—he answered that the Bishop of Bath and Wells had received from Mr. Bennett a testimonial the refusal of which would have exposed him to proceedings at law; the explanatory note of the Bishop of London only imposed upon the Bishop of Bath and Wells the duty of ascertaining for himself the doctrines entertained by Mr. Bennett. The third charge was founded, he observed, upon a hideous doctrine of judicial duties, namely, that the "due examinations" are to be of such a nature as to satisfy not the bishop, a great public officer, acting judicially, but others upon whom no responsibility was cast. The Bishop of Bath and Wells did examine Mr. Bennett in all those matters which were points of difference between the church of England and that of Rome, and he had been satisfied. Mr. Gladstone investigated certain opinions imputed to Mr. Bennett, which, he argued, contained no theological or legal offence that could justify the bishop in staying the institution. If they did, why was Mr. Bennett not proceeded against in the ecclesiastical court? As to the motion he objected to its terms, which implied censure; and he thought if there was to be an inquiry, it ought to be into the state, spirit, and enactments of the law, which seemed framed to discourage bishops from doing what the Bishop of Bath and Wells was accused of omitting to do.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON seemed to think the allegations about Mr. Bennett seriously backed by evidence; but he doubted the fitness and propriety of the house of commons as a tribunal for such an inquiry. He expressed his astonishment at Mr. Gladstone's justification of Mr. Bennett's abstinence from orthodox church-going, at Kissingen, when the whole family to which he was chaplain was only Sir John Harrington, "the churchwarden of St Paul's, Knightsbridge, who distinguished himself more by zeal than discretion in Mr. Bennett's case with the Bishop of London."—Sir PAGE WOOD did not dispute the power of the house to make the inquiry; but he urged on members that it behoved them, as the great inquest of the nation, to act with a judicial mind. He argued that the bishop could not in this case, consistently with his duty, have done anything else than what he did. The charge of indecent haste he disposed of by information as to the legal formalities of procedure. The Kissingen facts he assured the

house that the bishop was not competent to inquire into because they would not have been a competent legal justification for any steps he founded on them. The quotations from Mr. Bennett's books would not have made a good legal defence to a *Quare impedit* nor would the Bishop of London's letter; if Mr. Bennett had answered that he was at the time of examination an attached and sincere member of the church of England, and had explained away the doctrines complained of, the bishop had no alternative but to institute him. But, though glad thus to be delivered from the consideration of Mr. Bennett's case, he had in fact formed his opinion of it. He admitted that it was a considerable grievance, that in the case of a clergyman lying under such suspicion as Mr. Bennett did, from the things which were said to have occurred abroad, and from admitted passages in his books, which had not been cited in this debate,—he admitted that it was a grave thing that, under the existing state of the law, there was no power on the part of a bishop to refuse to institute such a person; and he confessed he looked to a reform of the law in that respect both in principle and practice; for the present house of commons having shown itself so anxious about the reform of the Court of Chancery, he felt certain that the next house of commons would not allow the ecclesiastical courts to pass unscathed. The present debate might tend to promote that result; and if so, it would be a useful result, and perhaps the only useful result it would have.—Colonel BOYLE addressed the house for certain of the parishioners in Frome, in favour of the motion. Colonel YORKE followed him on the other side, on behalf of the parishioners who support Mr. Bennett.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then endeavoured to dissuade the house from adopting the motion. He took the general disposition of the house to be one of extreme reluctance by any vote to throw a censure on the conduct of the Bishop of Bath and Wells; for they had seen that had the bishop thrown any difficulties in the way of Mr. Bennett's institution, he might, and very probably would, have incurred very perilous consequences. At the same time, Mr. Disraeli took the liberty to say, that if the law did not provide a remedy,—a fact, however, which he still doubted,—then it would be the duty of the house to endeavour to supply one; and if there were not—which in his mind there certainly was not—sufficient facility, or sufficient opportunity, for parishioners to obtain relief and redress, that was a fit subject for their inquiry and legislation. But the committee asked for would not have the function, or, at this time of the session, the opportunity, to make the necessary inquiry with satisfactory effect. Avowing in general terms that the state of our ecclesiastical courts cannot be much longer continued, and that the government is prepared sooner or later to act on that sentiment, he expressed his hope that Mr. Horsman would not ask the house to divide on his motion.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL hoped that those who had devoted their attention to the measures for the improvement of the proceedings in our courts of common law and equity would extend the benefits of their inquiry to the ecclesiastical courts of this country.—Mr. WALPOLE stated that at the end of Mr. Horsman's speech the members of the government examined attentively the terms of the motion to see if it would bear the construction of being suggestive of an inquiry into the law, to which they were not averse; but after the speech which introduced it, they could only regard it as directed against the bishop.—On this Mr. GOULBURN moved an amendment, to make the inquiry of the committee simply "into the state of the law respecting the appointment to benefices."—Mr. HORSMAN opposed this amendment: it was (he said) like proposing to inquire into the criminal law on a trial for murder.—The house divided on a question involving the point whether or not the original motion should be altered. The numbers were 156 to 111 against altering the original proposition; majority of Mr. Horsman against ministers, 45. The original motion for a select committee was then put substantively, and agreed to.

On Wednesday June, 9, the Marquis of BLANDFORD moved the second reading of the *Episcopal and Capitular Revenues Bill*.—Mr. WALPOLE stated the intentions of

government on the subject. He had communicated with the head of the government and with the highest authorities of the church, and had now to state that the government were willing to undertake, and would undertake the consideration of the subject, with reference to capitular bodies and cathedral institutions, so as to make them more extensively and practically useful than they are at present—so as to extend the spiritual instruction and education which might advantageously be afforded by those bodies. There were four essential points of detail in the bill. First, the abolition of deaneries, and the consolidation of the office of dean with the office of bishop; secondly, the further reduction of the number of canons; thirdly, by means to be acquired through these alterations, to add to the episcopate of the country; fourthly, to make provision for the better management of episcopal and capitular revenues. For the abolition of the deans he saw no reason; he doubted whether, with a view to keeping up cathedral institutions in sufficient force, the number of canons could be reduced further; the increase of the episcopate he thought very desirable, if a fund for the purpose can be found. It should be an object to relieve these high officers of the church, as far as possible, from the cares and troubles of all worldly and temporal affairs, but at the same time to preserve the property in such connection with them as not to leave them mere dependents and stipendiaries of the state.—Sir Robert INGLIS corrected the opposition as to an impression they might have been under with respect to the sentiment they had just cheered: Mr. Walpole did not mean to separate the church from the state, nor to remove bishops from the house of lords. [Mr. Walpole signified assent.]—In the course of the discussion on the ministerial statement, Mr. Sydney HERBERT said that in church reform his own opinions probably went beyond those of any around him. He was not one who thought a very large addition to the episcopate necessary: one of the causes of the desire for an augmentation is that the bishops are in a situation they ought not to be in, that of land-agents for the ecclesiastical commissioners. The recent establishment of St. Aidan's college at Birkenhead showed that institutions with the duties which the chapters were appointed to perform are a requirement of the present age.—The Marquis of BLANDFORD accepted willingly the undertaking of the government, both because that course met the sense of the house, and from his personal inclination. The order for a second reading was discharged.

On the order, moved by Lord R. Grosvenor, for going into committee upon the *County Elections Polls Bill*, Mr. PACE moved that it be deferred for six months. He had heard, he said, but two reasons for one day's county poll: first, that bribery was promoted by a second day's poll, which he believed was not the case; second, that the second day increased the expense of candidates. This he admitted; but the convenience of candidates, he thought, was not to be purchased by curtailing the franchise of the constituency. In close county contests, one day would not suffice for the polling.—Mr. ALCOCK supported the bill.—Mr. WALPOLE considered that this question rather concerned county members than the government; at the same time, he was not prepared individually to offer any opposition to the commitment of the bill.—The motion for going into committee was supported by Mr. B. Denison, Mr. W. Brown, and Mr. L. King, and opposed by Mr. Henley, Mr. Fellows, Mr. Deedes, and Colonel Sibthorp.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL did not think there was a pressing necessity for the measure at this moment. He thought the limitation of the polling to a single day very desirable, and would not oppose the motion if a proper machinery could be provided for the alteration in time for the next election; but apprehending considerable inconvenience from adopting the proposal at the approaching election, he should oppose it.—Mr. CORDEN observed that the principle of the bill being admitted, the objections were for the committee.—The original motion was opposed by Sir B. Bridges, and supported by Mr. Bouverie, Mr. W. Miles, and Mr. Oswald. Upon a division, it was carried by 160 against 82. The house then went into committee on the bill, but the proceedings were interrupted by the *Disorderly Conduct*

of Mr. Feargus O'Connor, who for some time past had exhibited symptoms of insanity. On the previous Tuesday he had behaved with such rudeness and even personal violence to Sir Benjamin Hall, that Sir Benjamin had to put himself under the protection of the Speaker. The SPEAKER stated to Mr. O'Connor, with sorrow, that he was in the constant habit of violating the rules and orders of the house; and if he persisted, he must receive the parliamentary censure of being "mentioned by name."—Mr. O'CONNOR, in tones and in a manner that must have been distressing to the house, said he had done nothing to hurt Sir Benjamin Hall; who, however, had been his enemy in the committee on the land scheme.—The Speaker then called upon him, by name, to make an apology to the house; he complied, and the matter dropped for that day.—Now, however, he broke out into outrageous violence. After repeatedly wandering out of and into the house, he sat down by Captain Fitzroy, whom he slapped smartly on the back, snatching a letter out of his hand, which so incensed Captain Fitzroy, that he started up in an attitude so menacing, that Mr. O'Connor hastily left the house. He re-appeared in a few minutes, and everybody saw that some painful scene was approaching. Mr. O'Connor, after tendering his hand to several members, who refused it, found his way to the front opposition bench, where he took his seat, amid cries of "order." These cries continuing, Mr. B. DENISON touched Mr. O'Connor upon the shoulder, and called "Order!" when Mr. O'Connor turning sharply round, struck Mr. B. DENISON a slight blow upon the face. This indignity elicited loud and indignant cries of "Order, order."—Mr. B. DENISON appealed to the chair, stating that Mr. O'Connor had put his hand in his face, and observing that other members had experienced inconveniences from the behaviour of that honourable member, which had been hitherto endured with great good feeling; but there was a point, he added, beyond which it would be unworthy of that house for its members to submit.—The CHAIRMAN said, his authority was limited, and that the proper course was for the committee to direct him to report the conduct of the honourable member to the house.—This course, on the motion of Sir J. PAKINGTON, was adopted; and the house having resumed, the Chairman reported the matter to the Speaker.—Mr. WALPOLE moved that Mr. O'Connor (who had run out just before) should be ordered to attend in his place.—Mr. JACOB BELL suggested that as Mr. O'Connor was evidently labouring under a misfortune, it would be better to refer the case to two medical gentlemen.—Mr. DUNCOMBE and Mr. AGLONY also expressed a sorrowful conviction that Mr. O'Connor was aberrant in his intellect; and they deprecated a course that would be justifiable only to a person that knew the full consequences of his acts. But the ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Sir David DUNDAS, with others, expressed a strong opinion that Mr. O'Connor was master of his own acts, and knew enough of their consequences to be responsible for them.—Mr. ANSTY suggested a middle course; that Mr. O'Connor be sequestered from his seat in parliament.—Mr. WALPOLE felt sure that the house would act humanely as well as justly. By allowing Mr. O'Connor to sit and vote, they had hitherto treated him as a person who knew what he was about. He moved that Mr. Feargus O'Connor be committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, for disorderly conduct and contempt of the house.—Sir John PAKINGTON felt it his painful duty to second the motion: Mr. O'Connor's conduct left no doubt in his mind that he was not master of his actions, and that, both for his own safety, and the safety and dignity of the house, they must take that course.—The motion for ordering the attendance of Mr. O'Connor in his place was withdrawn, and the motion for committing him into custody was agreed to. While the discussion was going on, Mr. O'Connor went in and out several times, his conduct continuing highly indecorous. While Mr. Walpole was speaking, he entered the last time, and placing himself on the left of the chair, began to talk to the Speaker. But as soon as he learned the nature of the proposition likely to be carried, he decamped altogether; taking a glass of brandy at the

bar in the lobby, and then making his way by the members' private passage into Westminster Hall. On the information of some gentlemen who had followed him, the constables on duty detained him, and told him that as he would presently be required by the Speaker, he must not quit the house. He immediately began to howl so loudly and vehemently, that a crowd gathered round him. The Deputy-Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Clementson, arrived with the Speaker's warrant, and took him into custody, to the rooms of Mr. Gossett, the Assistant-Sergeant. He vented abuse on the members who crowded to see him there; calling them ruffians, villains, murderers, &c.; with an accompaniment of strange noises. After an hour's comparative solitude, he became calmer, and was removed to the prison-rooms in the upper story of the building.—In the meantime, the house returned into committee, and proceeded with the bill. On clause 2, Mr. MILES moved an amendment, to the effect that the bill should not come into operation before the 1st of January, 1853.—Lord GROSVENOR could not consent to adopt the amendment.—The committee then divided: for the amendment, 91; against it, 134; majority against the amendment, 43. The clause was then agreed to, as were also the remaining clauses, and the bill was ordered to be reported. Some notices of motions having been given, the house went into committee on the *County Courts further Extension Bill*, resuming at clause 25, when, after some conversation, an amendment having been moved and withdrawn by Mr. Stanfield, the remaining clauses were agreed to, as also a clause moved by Mr. Mullings, that after the passing of this act, no judge of the said County Court shall practise at the bar, or as special pleader, or equity draftsman, or be directly or indirectly concerned as a conveyancer, notary public, solicitor, attorney, or proctor.

On Thursday, June 10, the house went into *Committee of Supply*, and a number of miscellaneous votes were agreed to. The consideration of the *New Zealand Bill* was then resumed in committee, beginning with the 74th clause, which purported to enact that upon all sales or alienations of waste lands 5s. per acre shall be paid to the New Zealand Company until their debt is discharged.—Sir W. MOLESWORTH moved to substitute another enactment, to the effect that nothing in the act, or in any future act or local law, shall affect so much of the 10th and 11th Vict., c. 112, as relates to the debt in question, thereby charged upon the proceeds of sales of demesne lands of the crown in the colony—in other words, that there should be no alteration in this matter. In the course of his speech, Sir William entered fully into the conduct of the New Zealand Company, which, he contended, entitled them to nothing beyond their strict legal right under the act of 1847.—Mr. AGLONY, at some length, defended the proceedings of the company.—Sir J. PAKINGTON, after hearing both sides, thought that the question did not bear sufficiently upon the bill to call for a decision of the house upon it, or to justify the proposal of Sir W. Molesworth, which would not be fair towards the company.—After considerable discussion, in which Mr. V. Smith, Mr. F. Peel, Mr. Mangles, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. J. A. Smith took part, the amendment was negatived without a division.—Sir J. PAKINGTON then proposed to alter the clause so that it should provide that one-fourth part of the sum paid by the purchaser in respect of every sale or alienation of land should be the property of the New Zealand Company, which was ultimately agreed to.—Mr. GLADSTONE moved to add the words, "but so that the said payment shall in no case exceed 5s. per acre so sold or alienated."—Sir J. PAKINGTON objected to the maximum as too low, and after a short conversation the committee divided, when there appeared—for Mr. Gladstone's amendment, 51; against it, 120; majority in favour of granting the New Zealand Company one-fourth absolutely, 69. The clause, as amended, was ordered to stand part of the bill. The remaining clauses with some modification were afterwards agreed to, and the bill was reported to the house.

On Friday, June 11, at the morning sitting, Mr. SLANEY moved for a standing committee, or an unpaid commission, to report on *Remedial Measures to benefit the Social Condition of the Working Classes*.—Lord R.

GROSVENOR seconded the motion.—Mr. WALPOLE doubted whether the object would really tend to secure the object in view, and whether more information would be gained by a standing commission than by the committees of both houses of parliament. Besides, he did not think it judicious to lead the people to depend rather on the government and parliament than on their own exertions. He hoped the hon. member would not press the matter to a division. The motion was ultimately withdrawn, and the house went into committee of supply.—On the vote for *Repairing the Chapel of the British Embassy at Constantinople*, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that the government had taken the matter into consideration since Thursday, and the enormous expenditure on the ambassadorial residence seemed most indefensible. To spend \$5,000*l.* in ten years was too much, and without wishing to lay any blame to their predecessors, the government wished to express their dissatisfaction on this head, and therefore should not propose to proceed further now with the vote.

At the evening sitting, the house went into committee on the *Improvement of the Jurisdiction of Equity Bill*. After four hours' discussion the whole of the clauses were agreed to without a division.—The *Masters in Chancery Abolition Bill* was then considered in committee. After a long discussion, the first five clauses were agreed to without a division. Upon the 6th clause, Mr. S. Carter moved, by way of amendment, that the compensation to the masters whose office would be abolished, should be limited to two-thirds, instead of the whole of their salaries. Mr. Anstey supported the amendment, which was opposed by Sir J. Graham and Sir W. Page Wood, and on division the amendment was negatived by 90 to 10. The remaining clauses were agreed to.

On Monday, June 14, Lord J. RUSSELL called the attention of the house to the *Case of Mr. Mather*, and generally to the *Present State of Public Affairs*. He began by referring to the circumstances of Mr. Mather's case. At the close of the last year that gentleman was subjected to gross maltreatment and outrage in the streets of Florence by an Austrian officer, who inflicted very serious injury on him. Lord Granville, then Secretary for Foreign Affairs, lost no time in instructing the British minister at the Tuscan court to demand reparation. The Austrian version differed materially from Mr. Mather's; it stated that Mr. Mather had several warnings, which he did not mind; that he was standing in the path, and impeding an officer; that, when struck on the face, he immediately put himself in a defensive or boxing attitude, as Marshal Radetzky styled it, and was in the act of resistance when struck down. By Mr. Mather's account of the circumstances, the outrage was a wanton and unprovoked one, inflicted on an unresisting man, who staggered under the blow, and could scarcely recover himself. He (Lord John Russell) had looked to see which was the view taken by Lord Malmesbury. A natural course would have been for him to propose that both parties should be confronted with one another; but no such course was taken. Lord Malmesbury had in fact adopted both views of the circumstances—on the one hand that it was a wanton and unprovoked outrage (as at page 60 of the papers), and again, in writing to the Earl of Westmoreland, that it was a mere accident caused by a course of unlooked-for and fortuitous circumstances. Count Buhl accordingly proposed to give compensation, not for an insult, but for an unfortunate accident. Having noticed various passages of singular verbal blundering in the official papers, the noble lord remarked that it was quite natural that Lord Malmesbury, being thus in doubt as to the real character of the transaction, should have been very inconsistent in the amount of his demands for compensation. Lord Granville had laid down the principle that the Tuscan government was responsible in the first instance, intimating that application should also be made to the Austrian government—a course which he (Lord J. Russell) regarded as the proper one. The account of the circumstances given by Messrs. Mather, as well as the language they had held throughout their efforts to obtain redress, was unexceptionable and becoming in

every point of view. It was perfectly clear that the elder Mr. Mather had only sought pecuniary compensation at all out of deference to the express request made to him by Lord Malmesbury; he at length mentioned a sum of 5000*l.* Whether that sum was a right sum or not, it was evidently not for Mr. Mather to fix the compensation that should be given for the violation of international law. It was evidently Lord Malmesbury's business to fix the sum; but, having asked Mr. Mather to do so, Lord Malmesbury should have consulted the Queen's Advocate on the point. This was the course pursued in the case of a South American merchant by a former Foreign Secretary (Lord Palmerston), who understood the business of his department. If Lord Malmesbury thought 5000*l.* too much, and that 1000*l.* would have been sufficient, no doubt Mr. Mather would have been quite satisfied to have left the matter in his hands. Instead of doing so, he wrote a general direction to Mr. Searlett, at Florence, to obtain a sum of money, stating his opinion at the same time that the amount named by Mr. Mather was exorbitant. The consequence of this unjust and foolish proceeding was a despatch from the Tuscan government, asserting that this was little else than a proceeding to extort money. This was the way in which the Foreign Secretary obtained redress for a man who had been most unjustly treated; no pains were taken to correct the blunder thus made, and the representation as to Mr. Mather was allowed to remain. There had been neither inquiry into the facts nor moral reparation. If Lord Malmesbury determined on asking pecuniary compensation, he should at least have adhered firmly to the sum demanded, and obtained one proportionate to the outrages and injuries inflicted. Instead of this, we find such absurd directions to the ambassador as that he must, if possible, get 500*l.* for Mr. Mather, or such a sum as would buy him an annuity, as if the two things were equivalent. Mr. Searlett was never told what it was precisely he was to ask, and the latitude and discretion were thus left to him. Being in great anxiety, he made a most unbecoming agreement to take 250*l.*, provided the Messrs. Stratford were released from prison. It was a great palliation of his conduct that he had never received precise instructions, nor been told what sum to ask for. But when all was done, Lord Malmesbury turned round on Mr. Searlett, and accused him of taking a course as much at variance with his instructions as with sound reason and equity. The result was a very disagreeable one for this country; the only persons who were to suffer were Mr. Mather and the agent who was entrusted with the conduct of the business. Let him not be told that Mr. Searlett was unfit or unable to carry out instructions; had he been told what steps to take, what reparation to ask for, no doubt he would have obtained it. It was remarkable that during all this time the Austrian government maintained the most conciliatory demeanour, and the wish to preserve the most friendly relations. If the Tuscan government professed that the Austrian army was beyond their reach, then we should have insisted on reparation from the Austrian government. But the fact was, that though neither the Austrian or the Tuscan government seemed inclined to deny a demand for justice, the mode in which Lord Malmesbury had managed the business was such as could call down upon us nothing but the ridicule and contempt of these foreign governments. The last despatch was to Sir Henry Bulwer, ordering him to leave Florence and break off all relations with the Tuscan government unless an offer of adequate reparation was made. Even if this were done, he did not think the character of the transaction would be at all improved; the only consequence would be that British travellers and subjects would be deprived of an able protector. He had heard lately of a case in which a respectable British subject had been thrown into prison at Berlin, and was now engaged in preferring requests for redress. The best advice he could offer to that gentleman was, not to ask the present government to interfere at all in the transaction. If this were to be the conduct adopted in dealing with foreign governments, our national character must sink into the depths of degradation. Let the government recollect

that this was now the only country of Europe in which the free expression of opinion was allowed. In such circumstances it behoved us to recollect what was due to our character, and to reflect on the injury which would be done both to the interests of liberty throughout the world and to our own national reputation, if it were to be permanently injured. Lord John Russell then proceeded to make remarks on the present state of public business. After the accession of the present ministry to office, the house and the country had been led to expect that the session would be a short one, and that a new parliament would meet early in the autumn, before which the measures of the government would be laid, and that in the meantime their policy would be frankly declared. Instead of this, however, the present government, from the first moment of their accession, had been studious to conceal their policy, departing in this respect from the examples of all their predecessors, and particularly Earl Grey and Sir R. Peel. Every one had expected to hear whether ministers were resolved to maintain or reverse the free commercial policy of Sir R. Peel and of the late government; but to this question the house and the country had yet had no answer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's declarations in parliament were at variance with the Mansion-house speech of the Premier, which, by its obscure and contradictory language, involved the intentions of the government in mystery and confusion. In short, the different members of the cabinet were all at variance in their declarations on the subject. The government candidates at Greenwich and elsewhere marched with a big loaf before them; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's address to his constituents proclaimed that the time for corn-laws was gone by, and that statesmen must be guided by the spirit of the age. In one point, however, it was not reassuring. The right hon. gentleman announced, as the result of his inquiries, that the rent of land had fallen off 5,000,000*l.* a-year—a sum equal to the falling off in property rated to the income-tax. But if this were to be made a pretext for the re-imposition of protective duties, nothing could be more preposterous. The corn-laws never had been defended on the ground of their adding to the income of the landowners, but as a national advantage. They were told also that there was to be a revision of taxation, but he feared that this would give no great satisfaction to farmers, who had been told for a succession of years that protection was sure to be restored as soon as a Whig government was overthrown. The effect of the commercial policy pursued since 1842 was greatly to lighten the burdens of the community, without danger to the exchequer; and he hoped that those who had been once deceived would not be deceived again into expecting that they could obtain protection from any source but that of their own industry and exertions. With regard to the measures brought forward by ministers, they were all, with the single exception of the militia, to the full credit of which they were entitled, founded on the acts of the late government. The commission for inquiry into the Court of Chancery was a measure of the late government. Upon some subjects, as that of Irish education, government had made very dangerous admissions. If concessions were made to Protestants, they must be made to Catholics also; if there was to be a separate education for children of the two religions, what became of the system of mixed education and its benefits? Let them reflect on the danger of disturbing a question that had been regarded as settled by general consent. The agitation of questions touching education and religion must produce the greatest excitement; we were even told that there was a party which demanded the alteration of the charter of the National Society. In forming the present government, it seemed as if those who were to be its members had entirely forgotten to determine what should be its principles, or to lay down any fixed line of action. Thus, on the Maynooth question, the management clauses, the Irish education system, nothing like a clear or consistent line of action was discernible. Talk of agitation—here was a premium distinctly set on agitation by the government itself. Although, however, we had no clear declaration of policy, we knew enough to warrant the right hon. member for Ripon (Sir J. Graham) in saying that the clear question for the

electors was, whether they would confide in Lord Derby's government or not—whether they would place their trust in a ministry that was without fixed principles or opinions of any kind?—Lord STANLEY defended the conduct of Lord Malmesbury in the case of Mr. Mather. It was impossible, he said, to read the evidence taken before the Tuscan court of justice, which was now in the hands of members, without coming to the conclusion that a right and proper course had been followed. Had the British government admitted the excuses put forward by the Tuscan government, of the Austrian army being beyond their control, and applied for redress to the Austrian government, as the noble lord said he would have done, the consequence would have been to recognise the absolute military occupation of Tuscany by the Austrian troops, which the present government had never done. In such case, an inquiry by a court-martial would have been the only one practicable according to the Austrian laws. Had a similar outrage been perpetrated in England on a subject of Austria, and had the case gone to trial and been decided by a jury, it would have been impossible for the British government to take any other course than that which had been taken by the Austrian government—of expressing its regret at the occurrence to Mr. Mather. There was nothing to call for reprehension in the conduct and demands of Mr. Mather, who evidently took the national view of the question, supposing the act of the Austrian officer to be a gross insult and outrage, and wishing that a commensurate fine should be imposed; though, if no intentional insult from one government to another were in question, and it were merely an individual misfortune, then the sum named for compensation became disproportioned and extravagant. With regard to the disavowal of Mr. Scarlett, it was not for having consented to take a sum of 250*l.* instead of one of 500*l.*, or for having agreed to an irregular release of two political prisoners, but for having surrendered that most important principle on which the whole negotiation depended.—Mr. B. OSBORNE observed, that by the convention concluded between Austria and Tuscany in 1849, the Austrian troops were not to be subject in any respect to the tribunals or authorities of Tuscany. He regarded the head and front of the Foreign Secretary's offending to have been that he did not at once call Austria to account, for he thought that our national character and standing had been lowered by this petty huxtering with the Tuscan government. In the true spirit of a pedlar, Lord Malmesbury at once asked Mr. Mather, "How much will you take for your injury?" When Mr. Mather named a sum, at Lord Malmesbury's own request, the noble lord never hinted to him that he thought it too high; but behind Mr. Mather's back, and without saying a word to him, he wrote a despatch to Mr. Scarlett at Florence, characterising the demand of 5000*l.* as extravagant. At last he came down to 500*l.*, acting probably on the celebrated doctrine of compromise laid down in the Premier's speech at the Mansion-house. What security had British subjects travelling abroad for their lives, honour, or property, when Lord Malmesbury used such language in his despatches? He should ever regret that the noble lord the member for Tiverton had left what was his natural position at the head of our foreign affairs; had he still continued in office, we should have had none of these disgraceful discussions with the Tuscan government as to the price of insult. There had been no expression of contrition on the part of the Austrians; Lieutenant Forsthuber was going about as the hero of the hour, and the health of Lord Malmesbury and Lieutenant Forsthuber were now being toasted at the Austrian messes. The noble lord was bound, for the credit of his ministry, if not of the country, to have taken a higher tone on the subject, and insisted on an effective inquiry into the facts being made. Mr. Scarlett might be an amiable man, but he was on far too intimate terms with the Austrian commanders. The infirmity of purpose manifested throughout Lord Malmesbury's despatches was such as had never been surpassed in any other state.—The Marquess of GRANBY entered into a number of statistical details to show the injurious nature of the free-trade commercial policy, which, he contended,

ought to be abandoned.—Lord PALMERSTON said he would not waste the time of the house by a discussion now so idle, feeling sure that protection is dead, and that the people will act the part of registrar-general of deaths over its venerable corpse at the coming election. He had read with anything but satisfaction the Mather correspondence. The whole case seemed to him, not a comedy, but a tragedy of "All in the Wrong." There was much to criticise in the conduct of all parties but Mr. Mather and his son. The late government was wrong—the present government was wrong—and Mr. Scarlett was also wrong. Taking the conduct of the present government first, he backed the assertion of Lord John Russell, that Lord Malmesbury was very wrong in asking Mr. Mather to assess the damages; and again incomprehensibly wrong, both in conduct and feeling, in stating to the Tuscan government that Mr. Mather had made an "exorbitant demand." He was again wrong in confining the formal demand of redress to the Tuscan government; for he well knew of the convention between Tuscany and Austria to which Mr. Osborne had referred; and he knew that so strictly had that convention been acted on, that when some drunken Austrian soldiers insulted the grand duke's family by hauling them out of their carriage in order to replace them by a staggering comrade, redress was only granted through the trial and punishment of the men by their own officers. The lesson read to Tuscany was a good one—that if they gave themselves up to a great power, we would not acknowledge that step, but would say we did not care a pin for it; and would insist on their own responsibility, and make them pay another time. But it would have been more impressive if we had gone to the greater power, and said to that state, that responsibility attends power; if we had taken the handy mode of saying, "If you overbear this weak country, we will have reparation from you for the outrages of your garrison, instead of from the weaker power you have overborne." Lord Malmesbury seemed also to have been most wrong and hasty in disavowing Mr. Scarlett for surrendering the principle of Tuscan responsibility; for Mr. Scarlett expressly adhered to it. In his reply to the Duke of Castiglione, on the 11th April, he said:—"I accept your arrangement; but as you have thought right to reaffirm your principle as to the non-responsibility of Tuscany, I think it right to refer you to my note of the 18th March, in which the principle of the British government is laid down that you are responsible; and I tell you that the British government maintains that principle in all its integrity." Upon the point of the tone assumed to the Court of Vienna, the late government was open itself to criticism; for Earl Granville expressly said to the Earl of Westmoreland, "I have no instructions to give you;" and no application was made to the Austrian government. That was an error; for *primâ facie* the Austrian government was the party from whom redress should have been demanded; and if they had shown us proofs that the officer who cut down an unarmed man had done so in obedience to the rules of their service, then we should have been entitled to say to them—"You may make what regulations you like, provided they are not attended with injury to a British subject; but when a British subject suffers by those regulations, they become improper, and we expect that you shall at all events make an apology." The great error of Mr. Scarlett, Lord Palmerston thought, was his acceptance of the two young Stratfords as part of the damages for Mr. Mather; because Lord Palmerston had himself, while in the Foreign office, shown the Tuscan government that their trial by Austrian court-martial was illegal, and their imprisonment informal; and accordingly their release had already been promised. But this error of Mr. Scarlett only produced another error by Lord Malmesbury, who seemed to think he must adopt all the acts of his authorised agent; whereas in diplomacy you may always disavow your agent if he diverges from your instructions. Lord Palmerston concluded with some remarks on the lamentable unexampled system of cruelty, tyranny, and violence of every sort, existing in the Neapolitan and Roman states; and on the serious international importance of the continued occupation of Tuscany by Austria and of Rome by France,—a state of things to which he gravely besought

the earnest attention of a British government on terms with the two governments mainly interested in a decision upon the matter.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, going over Mr. Mather's case, amplified and extended Lord Stanley's defence of Lord Malmesbury. Turning then to Lord John Russell's strictures on general policy, he made a general rejoinder. The attack, he said, had been made early; and then again. He supposed this was the last forlorn hope; but the drum was muffled, and the fire had slackened; and he might say confidently that the citadel would not be yielded. Taunts had been thrown out that the credit of Chancery reform was borrowed: to whomever that credit was due, it was a credit to be proud of; but if it was not due to the present government, it had also been disclaimed by the late government; for when it was mentioned in the list of government measures, after the new ministry came in, Lord John received it with a derisive scoff. There were also taunts of using religion and education for party purposes: Lord John remembered "the Appropriation-clause," and shrunk in horror from the repetition of such manoeuvres. Mr. Disraeli defended his Buckinghamshire address. He defied the exposure of one word ever uttered by him to the effect that the corn-laws were for maintaining rent; but he argued, that if rents have been considerably diminished by hasty and unjust legislation, there is a just claim for redress. He contended with lengthened argument, that his position and principles on commercial policy are now what they have ever been. He denied that at any time after the corn-law and sugar-law legislation of 1846 and 1847, much as he condemned that legislation, had he ever maintained a recurrence to the same laws that regulated those matters before. "I say now, what I said before in this house, that I will not pin my political career on any policy which I think may be necessary to this great and prosperous country, on what is, after all, not a principle, but a measure; and it is possible that, as a measure of finance, I should be glad as a financier that there should be a moderate fixed duty on corn. But if I find—by circumstances which I do not wish particularly to describe—by acts which I have no wish to denounce—that a fiscal proposition is invested with so much popular odium that it would be one of the unwisest things a minister could do to propose a tax which the people dislike, whether rightly or wrongly, I cannot say I feel myself bound in honour to make that the basis of my policy, and the only measure which is a panacea for a suffering community. Our wish is, that the interests which we believe were unjustly treated in 1846 should receive the justice which they deserve, with as little injury to those who may have benefited more than they were then entitled to benefit, as is possible for human wisdom to devise. Our object is to do justice to those classes to which we believe you acted unjustly in 1846; and we wish to do that without disturbing the system which is now established."—After some remarks by Lord D. STUART, who strongly censured Lord Malmesbury's conduct in the Mather case, the debate terminated. After some other business, which occupied the house till near three in the morning, the adjourned *Maynooth* debate came round to its turn. Mr. SPOONER insisted on going on with it then, or on dividing. But such a proposal was strongly opposed.—Mr. Roundell PALMER said, he was desirous of expressing his views on the question; and there were indications that other speakers would rise if there were another opportunity. A motion to adjourn was made, and being pressed to a division, was carried by 103 to 29.—Mr. SPOONER intimated that he should take that division as the index of the feeling of the house on his original motion.

On Tuesday, the 15th, at the morning sitting, the *Maynooth Question* was resumed.—Mr. KEECH inquired whether Mr. Spooner intended to replace upon the vote the order for resuming the adjourned debate, which, by the abrupt adjournment of the house at three o'clock that morning, was left in a state of suspended animation.—Mr. SPOONER replied that he was content to let the division already had be a decision on the main question.—A long and somewhat angry discussion

succeeded, in the course of which Mr. MUNTZ complained of the course taken by Irish members upon this question, and vindicated the sincerity of Mr. Spooner.—Mr. KEOGH charged the government with insincerity on the subject, and playing fast and loose for electioneering purposes.—Lord NAAS taxed Mr. Keogh with a systematic hostility which, if persevered in, would make every government in this country impossible.—Mr. OSBORNE repeated Mr. Keogh's charges against the government, and accused Lord Naas of an underhand working with the candidates sent to Ireland in the interest of the government, whose conduct he designated as organised hypocrisy, tergiversation, and duplicity.—The SECRETARY-AT-WAR, with some warmth replied to Mr. Osborne, charging him in turn with attacking not only governments, but individuals, and entitled him the Thersites of Middlesex.—The discussion went on for a full hour, and at last produced no result, except that Mr. Spooner intimated that he did not mean to take any further step in the matter.—The report was brought up and agreed to.

The select committee on the petition respecting Mr. F. O'Connor was nominated.

The SECRETARY-AT-WAR obtained leave to bring in a bill to *Suspend Ballot for the Militia*.

Mr. NAPIER, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to continue the act of 1847 for the better *Prevention of Crime and Outrage in Certain Parts of Ireland*, gave an outline of the nature and provisions of that act, with a description of the circumstances of Ireland when it was introduced; and then drew an appalling picture of the agrarian outrages, which had doubled in number since 1847; the threatening notices, the murders for which no conviction could be obtained; juries being, he said, intimidated from performing their duties.—This motion also gave rise to considerable discussion, the introduction of the bill being opposed by Mr. Lawless, Mr. F. Scully, Mr. S. Crawford, Mr. Anstey, and Mr. Keogh, who called for remedial measures before coercive ones.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER denied that this was a measure of coercion; it was a measure of police, which was expiring, and the condition of Ireland required its continuance. With respect to remedial measures, such measures, he said, had been already prepared by the government; but he asked whether any member, looking at the position of the ministry, and the temper of the house generally, in the transaction of public business, could really say that it had been in their power to introduce them. The government could not incur the responsibility of letting this act expire, which would release great criminals; but the bill was to continue only until next December, so that the subject must be reconsidered in the ensuing parliament.—Upon a division, the motion for leave to bring in the bill was carried by 140 against 19. The bill was then brought in and read a first time.

At the evening sitting, Mr. ANSTAY rose to move a resolution to the effect that the *Case of the Rev. Messrs. Wingate, Smith, and Edward, expelled from the Austrian Dominions*, called for prompt and earnest measures on the part of her Majesty's government, and was entering into details of their case when the house was *Counted Out*, at a quarter to eight o'clock.

On Wednesday, the 16th, at the morning sitting, the select committee for the revision of the sessional and standing orders of the house having been appointed, and several petitions presented, Mr. ANSTAY complained of certain alleged irregularities connected with the proceedings of the house on several occasions, including that of the *Count Out* on the previous evening, and having appealed to the chair, the SPEAKER explained; and some discussion afterwards following, Mr. ANSTAY gave notice of a motion on the subject on Thursday.

Mr. KEOGH alluded to the proclamation which appeared in Tuesday's "Gazette" against *Roman Catholic Processions and the Use of Priests' Robes in Public*, and inquired if it were intended to give the same publicity to it in Ireland as in England. He also wished to ask if the Attorney-General for that country was to be directed to prosecute priests for doing what they had been constantly allowed to do since 1829 without molesta-

tion.—Mr. Secretary WALPOLE, after referring to the provisions of the statute of George IV. on the subject, which Mr. Keogh alleged to be dormant, said that the government, having heard no more of any repetition of a procession which took place in Ireland two months ago, regarding which the bishop who had taken a part in it was remonstrated with in a friendly spirit, while he was also warned that if the law were again violated, it would be put in force, it was not the wish of the government to give a more special warning in Ireland than was contained in the proclamation. With regard to the question of putting the law, which he denied was dormant, into force, facts of a very peculiar nature had come to the knowledge of the government, namely, that the Roman Catholics were going to renew the processions along the public highways, which had been done away with for three hundred years, by marching from village to village with banners and emblems of their religion, in honour of the celebration of the feast to the Virgin Mary. The procession to which the proclamation more especially referred moved for more than four miles along the highway, and consisted of 150 persons, bearing banners and emblems of their faith, crucifixes, with our Saviour upon them, and images of the Virgin and the infant Jesus; and he had no hesitation in saying that it did give so much annoyance to others of her Majesty's subjects, and there having been danger of a breach of the public peace, the government had determined to see that in future the law was observed.

The adjourned debate on the subject of the *Bishopric of Christchurch (New Zealand) Bill* was resumed. Mr. ADDERLEY, after some reflections on the obstructive course which had been pursued by Mr. Anstey, explained the object of the bill to be this—that, whereas the Bishop of New Zealand (Dr. Selwyn) having found that his diocese had become so populous as to render it impossible for him adequately to discharge the functions of his office, had sent home, for the purpose of subdividing it, a partial resignation of his patent; but there being a technical informality in the deed of resignation, this bill had been introduced to render the instrument valid. He (Mr. Adderley) had offered to expunge any word in the bill to which an exception was taken; but Mr. Anstey had insisted that, instead of "Bishopric of New Zealand," in the preamble, the words, "a See in New Zealand in communion with the Church of England," should be substituted; but the Attorney-General, as guardian of her Majesty's rights, had objected to this alteration. This was the only point at issue. The hon. gentleman concluded by hoping that the house would not permit the bill to be further obstructed by Mr. Anstey.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave a similar explanation of the object and necessity of the bill (which was not a government measure).—Mr. HEYWORTH opposed the bill generally, and moved the further adjournment of the debate.—Mr. ANSTAY said the bill involved the whole question of the Queen's ecclesiastical supremacy in the colonies, which she did not possess unless under some legislative enactment; but this bill would indirectly legalise the exercise of her prerogative there, and open the door to the introduction of the tyranny of the ecclesiastical laws and spiritual courts.—In the course of Mr. Anstey's speech, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose to order, observing that he understood that the motion for adjourning the debate had been made in order to afford Mr. Anstey an opportunity to make another speech upon the bill, and inquiring of the chair whether this was not an evasion of the strict rule of the house?—The SPEAKER was of opinion that it was, and impressed upon the house the necessity of a strict observance of its rules.—Sir J. PAKINGTON shortly supported the bill, and Mr. HUME strongly urged its postponement until the opinion of the colony could be taken.—The house then divided, and the numbers were—For the adjournment of the debate, 31; against it, 119; majority, 79.—A division next took place on the motion for the second reading of the bill, which was carried by 111 against 34.

Sir De L. Evans's *Parish Vestries Bill* was opposed by the Attorney-General and other members of the government, and on a division was thrown out, by 86 votes against 26.

The committee on Mr. Feargus O'Connor's Case reported that he was insane, and recommended his discharge from the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, in order to his being transferred to a lunatic asylum; a motion in accordance with such recommendation proposed by Mr. WALPOLE was immediately carried.

The motion for referring the *Corrupt Practices at Elections* (No. 2) Bill to a committee was opposed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who objected to the whole machinery of the measure, and especially to the proposal for taxing the offending districts and for referring questions of bribery to the decision of the county courts.—Mr. ANSTAY said a few words in favour of the bill, and a division was called, which resulted in the loss of the bill, by 65 votes to 16.

On Thursday the 17th, the morning sitting was taken up in the discussion of the *Metropolitan Water Supply Bill*, the motion for committing which was met by Mr. MOWATT with an amendment to postpone it for the session, on the ground that the public interest had not been considered in the bill, either in regard to the source of supply, distribution, or price; and he urged that under proper arrangements, combining the sewage of the metropolis and the water supply under one system, the sewage might be made to pay the whole expense of the water supply, and at the same time furnish the agriculturists with a more valuable manure than could be obtained from the South Sea Islands.—Lord EBRINGTON also objected to the bill, and stated that the house had no information upon which to proceed in regard to it.—Mr. T. DUNCOMBE animadverted on the opposition of the Sanitary Association and the late head of the Sewers Commission, who had, by discharging the sewage of the metropolis in the Thames, polluted the existing source of supply. Government were entitled to the thanks of the house for pressing forward this bill.—Mr. W. WILLIAMS complained that no member representing the metropolis had been placed on the committee, and expressed his intention of supporting the amendment.—Sir B. HALL and Mr. GEACH spoke in favour of the bill, and Mr. MOWATT, having withdrawn his amendment, the house went into committee, and passed the first clause, in which an alteration was made, fixing 1855 as the date for the completion of the works and commencement of the operation of the bill.—At the evening sitting, a petition was presented by Lord NAAS from New South Wales, claiming the *Management of all the Land arrangements of the Colony*, the Governor-General's salary only excepted.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, referring to some expressions in the petition, as for instance one describing her Majesty as only the trustee of her colonial dominions, desired to have an opportunity of examining it, and suggested that its formal presentation should be deferred.—The SPEAKER suggested that if any expression disrespectful to the sovereign were in the petition the best course would be to withdraw it.—Mr. GLADSTONE had read the petition and had not observed any expression disrespectful to her Majesty in it. A similar statement was made by Lord NAAS, and ultimately the petition was ordered to lie on the table.

The consideration of the *Metropolitan Water Bill* was renewed in committee, and the remaining clauses were agreed to. Lord J. MANNERS moved the second reading of the *Metropolitan Burials Bill*. After detailing the circumstances attending on the failure of the act of 1850, he explained that the present bill was divided into four heads:—The first repealed the act of 1850; the second gave power to the secretary of state to close burial grounds within the metropolitan districts which were prejudicial to public health or offensive to public decency; the third gave power to the parochial authorities to replace the burial grounds so closed by others without the metropolis; and the fourth empowered the use of the cemetery which the government found themselves in possession of in providing temporary accommodation to those parishes which, by the sudden closing of their burial grounds, were deprived of the means of burying their dead. The principle on which the bill proceeded was that of local responsibility combined with government control. It was not proposed to grant compensation inasmuch as no burial ground would be

closed which was not a public nuisance, and inimical to the public health.—Lord EBRINGTON objected to dealing with the question at this period of the session, and more especially to the repeal of the act of the Board of Public Health, of which he had been a member.—Mr. T. DUNCOMBE stated some facts relative to St. Clement's churchyard in explanation of a previous statement as to the practice of breaking up coffins and bodies interred for the purpose of making room for other interments. He supported the bill, and thanked the government for introducing it. He suggested that all graveyards within the metropolis should be closed by a certain day. The motion for the second reading was agreed to. The *Metropolitan Sewers Bill* passed through committee, after some observations, expressive of approbation from Lord SEYMOUR and Sir B. HALL. On the third reading of the *New Zealand Government Bill*, Sir W. MOLESWORTH moved the omission of the land clauses, in order that the New Zealand Company's claims might be considered in another session, which Secretary Sir J. PAKINGTON opposed and Mr. Gladstone supported.—Mr. AGLIONEY and Mr. J. A. SMITH spoke in defence of the New Zealand Company, and on a division, the clauses were confirmed, and the bill was afterwards passed. Lord R. GROSVENOR's bill for *limiting the Polling at County Elections to one Day* was thrown out on a division, 39 voting for and 49 against it.

Mr. HORSMAN, after adverting to the difficulties he had met with in forming the committee on the *Fyvie Vicarage Case*, and the additional impediment interposed by Mr. Gladstone, in calling upon him—as he contended, not in accordance with, but contrary to, precedent, where an impeachment was not intended—to prepare heads or articles of the charges he had alleged against the Bishop of Bath and Wells, stated his intention of abandoning the subject for the present session.—Mr. GLADSTONE denied having impeded the nomination of the committee, and contended that he was fully justified, by precedent, in demanding that the charges against the Bishop of Bath and Wells should be reduced to articles, and laid on the table. He called attention to the enormous power of accusation possessed by the house against private individuals, unaccompanied by the restraints which prevailed in a court of law; the only check being, that the house would not entertain charges that were not based on the most unquestionable foundation. It was no answer that impeachment was not intended—it was the duty of Mr. Horsman, having brought such charges against the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to proceed to impeachment. But the charges had broken down, and Mr. Horsman had now discovered that the constitutional restraint which prevailed in the House of Commons would prevent that assembly being made the arena of licensed libel and defamation. In incriminatory proceedings the house only proceeded upon defined written charges, the one exception that he remembered being in the case of ship money in the reign of Charles II., when the facts were everywhere notorious.—Sir W. P. WOOD gave some explanations in support of the opinion given by him on the previous discussion as to the law of the case.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER intimated, that if Mr. Gladstone had proceeded with his amendment, the government would have felt it their duty on principles of justice to support it. Dismissing the particular case, the unsatisfactory state of the law remained; it would be the duty of government to take into their serious consideration the whole question, with a view to apply a remedy to those grievances that exist as to the institution of clerks by bishops.

The motion for the second reading of the *Crime and Outrage Bill* was opposed by Mr. V. Scully, who moved the formal amendment, that it be postponed for three months, which Mr. Lawless seconded. The Solicitor-General for Ireland spoke in favour, and Mr. F. French, Mr. Magan, and Mr. F. Scully against the bill, which was carried on a division by 118 to 15.

On Monday June 21, the morning sitting was taken up in discussing the *Poor Law Board Continuance Bill* and the *Metropolis Water Supply Bill*, both of which were read a third time and passed, and in considering and affirming the first clause of the *Metropolitan*

Burials Bill. At the evening sitting Lord J. RUSSELL called attention to the recent *Minute of the Education Committee*, altering the management clauses in respect to church schools; and complained that the present government, immediately on their entering office, should have interfered with a system with which dissenters as well as the great body of the members of the church, clerical and lay, were satisfied. The present constitution of the managing body recognised the lay element of the church, but the effect of the minute would be to deprive that element of its due influence, and to lower the condition of the schoolmaster, by placing him altogether in the power of the clergyman.—Mr. Secretary WALPOLE said the object of the minute was to give to the established church that power and that influence which parliament had originally intended. Originally the grant was left to the management of voluntary bodies, but in 1839, when it was proposed to transfer that management to the Privy Council, in consequence of the stir made in the church, the proposal was withdrawn. An understanding was then come to between the Privy Council and the government that no interference would be attempted either in the discipline or internal management. In 1846 the management clauses were first introduced; put forward as suggestions or recommendations, but drawn up in such a manner that unless the church acquiesced in them they were not to partake of the grant. All that was done by this minute was to enable the promoters of church schools to say whether they would be subject to that clause or not, and that when they had reason to object not only on account of the religious instruction given, but also of the moral education afforded in their own schools, they should be at liberty to do so. The management clauses had been made a sort of watchword of party religion, and the change now proposed would put an end to strife and jealousies, and by allaying differences give free course to the best element of the church's strength, union.—Some remarks were made by Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. HUME, and others, and the conversation dropped. The *Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill* passed through committee, after some opposition from Mr. V. SCULLY, Mr. COGAN, Mr. F. SCULLY, and Mr. J. O'CONNELL. The *Encumbered Estates (Ireland) Bill* also passed through Committee. The third reading of the *Disabilities Repeal Bill* was opposed by Mr. NEWDEGATE and supported by Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER, who explained that Lord Lyndhurst was its author, and pointed out the uselessness of the penalties the existing law imposed on persons voting in the House of Commons without taking the oaths, which was the case the Bill was intended to meet.—Sir W. P. WOOD, Mr. ANSTEV, and Mr. HUDSON, also spoke in support of the bill.—Mr. Secretary WALPOLE would oppose the bill if he looked upon it as Sir W. P. Wood did, as an instalment towards the removal of those disabilities which prevented Jews sitting in parliament, but believing the penalties it sought to repeal were unnecessary for the maintenance of the existing law, he supported it.—Mr. NEWDEGATE having withdrawn his opposition, the bill passed.

On Tuesday, June 22, Mr. BERNAL called attention to the *Distress in Jamaica*, caused by deficiency of labour; and Sir J. PAKINGTON promised to consider whether there were any means of relief.—At the evening sitting, the *Committee of the Irish Valuation Bill* was opposed by Mr. F. SCULLY, who moved the formal amendment of postponement for three months. After some conversation the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill went through committee.

On Wednesday, June 23, Mr. GLADSTONE moved, in committee of the whole house, for leave to bring in a second bill to enable the *Church of England in the colonies to meet in Synod* for the purposes of ecclesiastical government; his object was to make such changes as would meet some of the minor objections to the previous bill (which was opposed by government), and to have it printed in the corrected form, and sent out to the colonies preparatory to legislation in a future parliament. After a conversation of some length, and a warm altercation between Mr. Gladstone and Sir J. PAKINGTON, leave was given to bring in the bill.—Lord JOCELYN called attention to the *Case of Meer Roostun,*

the late Ameer of Seinde; the manner in which, by treachery, his brother Ali Morad had obtained the aid of the British power to deprive him of his territory. After drawing a picture of the sufferings of the injured prince and his family, Lord Jocelyn appealed to the consideration and sympathy of parliament in a question in which not only the principles of humanity and justice, but the honour of the British name were involved, and concluded by moving for papers.—Sir R. INGLIS seconded the motion.—Mr. BAILLIE reminded the noble lord that the policy of the Indian government in reference to this question had been that of a previous government, and had been justified by the late Sir Robert Peel. The further discussion of the question was postponed until next day.

On Thursday, June 21, the above debate was resumed by Mr. BAILLIE, who stated that the deposed Ameer's family had been treated with every consideration, and with regard to the act of deposition, complained of the practice of re-opening questions of state policy long since settled.—Mr. HERRIES offered, on the part of the Board of Control, to give the principal papers asked for by Lord Jocelyn, and suggested that the others should not be pressed for.—Mr. HUME remarked that the facts of the case showed the government had been made the dupe of an artful man, Ali Morad, to perpetrate an act of the grossest injustice. The motion, as amended at the suggestion of Mr. Herries, was agreed to.

On Friday, June 25, on the further proceeding with the *Metropolitan Burial Bill*, Lord EMINGTON moved a proviso to prevent buildings being erected in private burial grounds closed under the act, which was opposed by Lord J. Manners, and on a division lost by 80 votes against 21, after which the measure passed.

The *General Board of Health Bill* was read a third time and passed.

The amendment of the Lords on the *Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill*, after some discussion, was ultimately agreed to.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—May 27. Common Law Procedure Bill read a third time and passed.—Income Tax Continuance Bill read a third time and passed.

28th.—Masters in Chancery Abolition Bill, and Improvement of the Jurisdiction of Equity Bill, read a third time and passed. House adjourned over Whitsuntide.

June 5th.—London Necropolis Bill read a second time.—Industrial and Provident Societies Bill read a second time.

11th.—New Minute of Council on Education.—Case of Baron de Bode, Select Committee granted.—Surrender of Criminals (Convention with France) Bill passed through Committee.

14th.—Surrender of Criminals (Convention with France) Bill withdrawn by Lord Malmesbury.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill considered in Committee.

15th.—Militia Bill read a second time.

17th.—Ecclesiastical Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Bill thrown out on second reading.—Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill passed through committee.—Lunatics Bill postponed to next session.—Suits in Chancery Relief Bill read a second time.—Militia Bill passed through committee.

21st.—The Commons Enclosure Acts Extension Bill, the Appointment of Overseers Bill, and the Hereditary Casual Revenues in the Colonies Bill, read a second time.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, Enfranchisement of Copyholds Bill, Trustees Act Extension Bill, and Militia Bill, read a third time, and passed.—Poor Law Continuance (Ireland) Bill passed through Committee.

22nd.—New Zealand Bill.—The Passengers Act Amendment Bill, the Pharmacy Bill, and the County Rates Bill read a second time, the last referred to a Select Committee.—The Sunk Islands Roads Bill, the Commons Enclosure Acts Extension Bill, the Appointment of Overseers Bill, and the Hereditary Casual Revenues in the Colonies Bill, passed through Committee.—The Poor Law Commission Continuance (Ireland) Bill read a third time and passed.

24th.—Militia Pay Bill, Militia Ballot Suspension Bill, Turnpike Acts Continuance Bill, Poor Law Continuance Bill, and Metropolitan Water Bill, read a second time.—Suits in Chancery Relief Bill and Pharmacy Bill passed through Committee.—Navy Pay Bill and Hereditary Casual Revenues in the Colonies Bill passed.

House of Commons.—May 27th.—Militia Bill considered in Committee.—Valuation (Ireland) Bill and Patent Law Amendment Bill read a second time.—Law of Wills Amendment Bill considered in Committee.

28th.—Debate on Maynooth question.—Resolutions for Morning Sitting.—House Adjourned over Whitsuntide.

June 3rd.—Committee of Supply, Miscellaneous Estimates.—

Common Law Procedure Bill and Improvement of Equity Jurisdiction Bill read a second time.—Industrial and Provident Partnerships Bill read a third time.—Protestant Dissenters Bill read a second time.

4th.—Committee of Supply, Miscellaneous Estimates.—New Zealand Government Bill in Committee.—Passengers Act Amendment Bill in Committee.

7th.—Committee of Supply, Miscellaneous Estimates.—Militia Bill read a third time and passed.—Navy Pay Bill considered in Committee.—Poor Law Continuance Bill passed through Committee.—Passengers Act Amendment Bill read a third time and passed.—Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill read a second time.

8th.—Maynooth, adjourned debate.—Case of Mr. Bennett, Mr. Horsman's motion for a Select Committee carried by 156 to 111.

9th.—County Elections Polls Bill in Committee.—Mr. Feargus O'Connor committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.—County Courts Extension Bill considered in Committee.

10th.—Mr. T. Duncombe's motion respecting post-horse duty negatived by 94 to 43.—Sir De Laey Evans' motion respecting carriage duties negatived by 57 to 17.—New Zealand Bill passed through Committee.

11th.—Mr. Slaney's motion for a Commission of Inquiry into the Condition of the Working Classes debated and withdrawn.—Improvement of Equity Jurisdiction and Masters in Chancery Abolition Bill passed through Committee.—Metropolitan Sewers Bill read a second time.

14th.—Mr. Mather's case brought forward by Lord J. Russell.—Maynooth adjourned debate.

15th.—Prevention of Crime and Outrage in Ireland, leave given to Mr. Napier to bring in a Bill.—Mr. Anstey's motion respecting Scotch Missionaries in Austria, house counted out.

16th.—Bishopric of Christchurch (New Zealand) Bill read a second time.—Mr. Feargus O'Connor transferred to a lunatic asylum.

17th.—Metropolis Water Bill considered in Committee.—Metropolis Burials Bill read a second time.—Metropolis Sewers Bill passed through Committee.—New Zealand Government Bill read a third time and passed.—County Elections Polls Bill thrown out on third reading.

18th.—Militia Pay Bill passed through Committee.—Improvement of Equity Jurisdiction Bill read a third time and passed.—Common Law Procedure Bill passed through Committee.—Mr. Bennett's case, Select Committee abandoned by Mr. Horsman.—Crime and Outrage in Ireland Bill, and Encumbered Estates Bill, read a second time.

21st.—Poor Law Board Continuance Bill read a third time and passed.—Metropolitan Burials Bill considered in Committee.—Metropolitan Sewers Bill and Nisi Prius Bill ordered to be read a third time.—Metropolitan Water Bill read a third time and passed.—General Board of Health Bill read a second time.—Patent Law Amendment Bill, Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill, and Encumbered Estates Bill, passed through Committee.—Disabilities Repeal Bill read a third time and passed.

22nd.—Militia Ballot Suspension Bill and Militia Pay Bill read a third time and passed.—Consolidated Fund Bill read a third time and passed.—Metropolitan Burials Bill considered in Committee.—Bishopric of Christchurch Bill passed through Committee.—Nisi Prius Bill read a third time and passed.—Common Law Procedure Bill read a third time and passed.—School Sites Acts Extension Bill and Property of Lunatics Bill passed through Committee.—Master in Chancery Abolition Bill read a third time.—Distressed Unions (Ireland) Bill and Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues Bill passed through Committee.—Excise Summary Proceedings Bill passed through Committee.—Secretary of Bankrupts' Office Abolition Bill passed through Committee.—The Bishopric of Quebec Bill passed through Committee.—The Colonial Bishops Bill read a second time.

23rd.—Public Health Act Amendment Bill read a third time and passed.—Metropolitan Burials Bill, and General Board of Health Bill, considered in Committee.—Crime and Outrage Bill, and Encumbered Estates Bill, read a third time and passed.—School Sites Acts Extension Bill, Property of Lunatics Bill, and Distressed Unions (Ireland) Bill, read a third time and passed.—Colonial Bishops Bill passed through Committee.—Metropolitan Sewers Bill read a third time and passed.

24th.—The following Bills passed:—The Valuation (Ireland) Bill, the Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues Bill, Excise Summary Proceedings Bill, Bishopric of Quebec Bill, Colonial Bishops Bill, and Bishopric of Christchurch (New Zealand) Bill.

Mr. DISRAELI, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has issued an address to the electors of Buckinghamshire, which is chiefly important as expounding his present views, and of course those of the cabinet to which he belongs, on the subject of commercial and financial policy. What these views are, will appear from the following passage:—"The time has gone by when the injuries which the great producing interests endure can be alleviated or removed by a recurrence to the laws which, previously to 1846, protected them from such

calamities. The spirit of the age tends to free intercourse, and no statesman can disregard with impunity the genius of the epoch in which he lives. But every principle of abstract justice and every consideration of high policy counsel that the producer should be treated as fairly as the consumer; and intimate that when the native producer is thrown into unrestricted competition with external rivals, it is the duty of the legislature in every way to diminish, certainly not to increase, the cost of production. It is the intention of her Majesty's ministers to recommend to parliament, as soon as it is in their power, measures which may effect this end. One of the soundest means, among others, by which this result may be accomplished, is a revision of our taxation. The times are favourable to such an undertaking; juster notions of taxation are more prevalent than heretofore; powerful agencies are stirring, which have introduced new phenomena into finance, and altered the complexion of the fiscal world; and the possibility of greatly relieving the burdens of the community, both by adjustment and reduction, seems to loom in the future."

At a recent meeting of the electors of Lincolnshire, assembled to hear the present members give explanation of their claims to a renewal of confidence, Sir Montague Cholmeley uttered doubts of the Protectionist premier:—"When Lord Derby nailed his colours to the mast, I did think his lordship would have stood or fallen by protection to agriculture—that that course would have been his pride and policy; and in that policy Lord Derby should have had my support. But now Lord Derby has got into office, I find all things changed—all things altered; and after numerous charges and explanations of what one honourable and right honourable gentleman had said in one house and another in another house—after explanations to explain away explanations—I am literally so mystified that I do not know what conclusion to come to with respect to the policy and intentions of the government. I view with dismay the declaration of the premier, made some days since in the House of Lords."

The "Gazette," of the 15th inst., contains the following proclamation against the *Celebration of the Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Religion except in the usual Places of Worship or in Private Houses*:—

"Whereas, by the Act of Parliament, passed in the tenth year of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, for the relief of his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects, it is enacted, that no Roman Catholic ecclesiastic, nor any member of any of the religious orders, communities, or societies of the Church of Rome, bound by monastic or religious vows, should exercise any of the rites or ceremonies of the Roman Catholic religion, or wear the habits of his order, save within the usual places of worship of the Roman Catholic religion, or in private houses; and whereas it has been represented to us that Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, wearing the habits of their orders, have exercised the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic religion in highways and places of public resort, with many persons in ceremonial dresses, bearing banners and objects of symbols of their worship, in procession, to the great scandal and annoyance of large numbers of our people, and to the manifest danger of the public peace; and whereas it has been represented to us, that such violation of the law has been committed near places of public worship during the time of divine service, and in such a manner as to disturb the congregations assembled therein:—We have therefore thought it our bounden duty, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our royal proclamation, solemnly warning all those whom it may concern, that whilst we are resolved to protect our Roman Catholic subjects in the undisturbed enjoyment of their legal rights and religious freedom, we are determined to prevent and repress the commission of all such offences as aforesaid, whereby the offenders may draw upon themselves the punishments attending the violation of the laws, and the peace and security of our dominions may be endangered."

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

JUDGMENT was given in the Bankruptcy Court, on the 29th ult., in the case of *David E. Columbine*, a solicitor and money-servicer of Carlton Chambers. The bankrupt's conduct has been most culpable; and almost every sentence of the Commissioner's judgment was a severe censure. For four years Columbine has been dragging his creditors and the assignees through the Equity and Common-Law courts, in a vain attempt

to make out that he should not have been adjudged a bankrupt: one portion of the litigation is still in Chancery. The fiat was issued in 1847: from that time the bankrupt fought his assignees inch by inch, availing himself of every means of opposition and procrastination which the forms of the courts permit. The case has been before the Vice Chancellor in Bankruptcy, before the Court of Chancery, before the Courts of Common Pleas, Exchequer, and Queen's Bench. It has been heard before juries in the Common-Law courts, and before those courts sitting in Banco; all sorts of issues have been tried, and all kinds of exceptions made, argued, and over-ruled. It is still before the Court of Chancery, and it is not very likely to be brought to a close there for years to come. Lord Denman when Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, Lord Truro when Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Mr. Justice Patteson, and many other judges, had pronounced judgment in the case in various forms; and the most eminent counsel have been engaged in it, the present Attorney-General and the present Chief Justice of the Common Pleas having been Mr. Colburn's advocates. At length it was decided, after years of litigation and thousands of pounds being expended, that Colburn was really a bankrupt, and the petition to annul the fiat was dismissed. There is now nothing in the hands of the official assignee. Colburn, before the fiat was issued, assigned away a large amount of money—really not his own property, but the property of his creditors. In January, 1846, he settled 2520*l.* on his mother; in January, 1847, he settled 11,030*l.* on a woman with whom he had lived, marrying her directly after. In March he was made a bankrupt—he had gone abroad with 1600*l.* in cash. The creditors allege that the settlements were fraudulent: the Commissioner agrees with them. Only about 100*l.* has been realised by the assignees for the creditors, whose claims are 29,000*l.* The bankrupt has rendered four successive accounts—all varying, all "wilfully false," said the Commissioner; the bankrupt's object being to endeavour to show that he was in a position to make the settlements. He showed such "art and contrivance" that Commissioner Goulburn himself was at first misled—he thought the man had been harshly dealt with. But now, on the ground that he believed the accounts to be wilfully untrue, he adjourned the final examination *sine die*.

In the Court of Queen's Bench on the 31st ult., there was a case which showed the absurd extent to which the *Expense of Pleading in Law Courts* has been carried. The question was about a bill of costs. Mr. Parker, the carrier, sued the Great Western Railway, for surcharges on parcels during four years; and he was successful. The notice of particulars in the action referred to twenty-one thousand distinct carrying transactions; it was written on forty-one folio volumes, of which the twenty-first part was exhibited to the court, and was charged in the bill of costs at 1300*l.*; it had taken an attorney and nine clerks three years (6366 hours) to prepare it. Other items were somewhat in proportion to this, but not quite so amazing. The Master had disallowed the charge of 1300*l.*, and allowed only 300*l.*—100*l.* for the draught, 17*l.* for one copy, and 25*l.* paper; and the plaintiff now sought to get a better allowance. The judges of the court were all extremely excited at the affair: they thought the Master had allowed too much—the proving of these matters need not have cost more than 20*l.*; and they refused to help the plaintiff.

In the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench on the 31st ult., sentence was pronounced on James Birch, proprietor of the notorious newspaper, the *World*, for gross libels which he had published and republished against Mrs. French, a widow lady, the daughter of Mr. Brewster, Q.C., who was leading counsel for Sir William Somerville, in the trial of Birch v. Somerville. Birch, instead of defending, acknowledged the utter falseness of his atrocious aspersions, and threw himself on the mercy of the Court. Mr. Justice Crampton so chastised him in his address on pronouncing sentence, for the wicked malignity of his attack on an innocent lady, that the prisoner involuntarily interrupted the Judge with exclamations several times, and at last was silenced by being carried off to his place of punishment: to be imprisoned

for twelve months. The case excited great public interest, and the court was crowded to excess.

A melancholy case of what must be called *Innate Depravity* was presented at the Mansion-house on the 5th inst. A blind negro beggar, and a young girl, his companion, were brought before the Lord Mayor by an officer of the Mendicity Society. The male prisoner was a most revolting object, his head being covered with long matted hair, and the covering upon his limbs tattered and filthy in the extreme. The female was a small-sized, pretty girl, presenting a remarkable contrast to the wretched creature who accompanied her. The officer said that he saw the two prisoners together in Bishopsgate-street. They had come from Halifax-street, where they lived together, and the girl fastened a petition to the man's breast, and placed him and his dog in an attitude of supplication. As soon as she had deposited him to her satisfaction against the wall, she retired from him. He saw him receive a penny, and then apprehended them both. He had traced them to their very bed, and had been particularly informed of their habits. The girl, he said, was the daughter of a respectable gentleman resident in London, and it was in consequence of the following letter from the unfortunate parent that the matter had been inquired into:—

"I beg to submit the following distressing case to your sympathies, and to solicit from you the advice and assistance which I am led to understand is kindly afforded by your society in extraordinary cases out of the pale of parental authority. By birth and education a gentleman, I married in the year 1829 a lady in the same sphere of society, by whom I had issue two daughters, the eldest of whom (the unfortunate subject of this application), not twenty-three years of age, was from the age of three months brought up and educated in the first style by her maternal grandfather and grandmother. At their decease, about seven or eight years since, she became an unwilling inmate of her parents' dwelling, from which she contrived to get away with a married man, and was not heard of (having eluded the efforts of the police to trace her for many months) until the receipt of a letter in the 'Times' newspaper, from Mr. D'Arcy, our solicitor, at Newton Abbott, in Devonshire, in which paper a detailed and humane account of the distressing condition of a young lady then lying at St. Luke's workhouse appeared, under the assumed name of Elizabeth Allen. This account, as regarded my daughter, abounded with the most atrocious falsehoods, as detailed by herself to the board of guardians of St. Luke's. My wife (having a cousin of the name, to whom the solicitor suggested it might apply), went to St. Luke's, and found our daughter to be the person whose case had been detailed in the 'Times,' and on her being brought before them and her mother, was then and there convicted of deliberate falsehood and fraud, and handed over to her mother. Exertions were then successfully made to get her cured of a complication of loathsome disorders at Bartholomew's Hospital, from whence, after being brought to a state of convalescence, and robbing some of the nurses of small sums of money, she escaped, and again was lost sight of for many months, when a gentleman, a friend of the family, saw and gave her into custody of the police, who restored her once more to her afflicted parents. Her conduct from this period was infamous in the extreme, and on her coming of age she threw off all restraint, and having a small house property in Devonshire, subject to her parents' interest, but which was waived in her favour, she left us, nor did we know of her whereabouts until, about ten months since, I met her in the streets of Whitechapel, in the last stage of destitution, filth, and rags, singing ballads. My humanity once again led me to speak with her and to remonstrate, the result of which was that we took her home, cleansed, clothed, and cared for. This lasted but a short time, and her recurrence to her former habits again precluded all knowledge respecting her, until, a few days since, we received a letter from our solicitor, saying he had heard from our daughter, as the wife of a Mr. Abraham, desiring the sale of her property, and requesting him to take the necessary steps—one of these, and the preliminary step, being our signatures and consent. My first impulse was to visit the locality specified in the solicitor's letter, '7, Little Halifax-street, Whitechapel,' and there, in one miserable room, cohabiting with a black blind beggar who perambulates the streets with a brown dog, this wretched girl is to be found. The parties who live in the same house say that she has been cohabiting with this monstrous loathsome being for two months, and that they live most luxuriously. Her mother, who had an interview with her, states that she boasts of this man's bringing her home from the West-end frequently 15*s.* per day, and on an average 7*s.* or 8*s.* per diem. She stated herself to have been married to him seven months since at Whitechapel Church, which, on careful inquiry, I find to be false, having examined the church books, and seen the officials on the subject. These latter circumstances induce me to think that the humanity and exertions of your society may be made available for the suppression of so much vice, and the salvation of this unfortunate child."

The Lord Mayor inquired of the young woman whether she could have any respect or affection for the miserable creature at her side. She said she had—that she had no intention of leaving him—and that they could do very well together; at the same time taking his hand with an air of fondness. The black, whose name is Mahomet Abraham, said he had been dog-led through the streets of London for eight years, that there could be no mistake about his blindness, and if any one knew how a blind man was to support himself except upon the kindness of those who were not blind, he would be much obliged to be informed in what way. Both prisoners were remanded. A large sum of money was found at their lodgings. On the 9th the beggar and the girl were again brought up before the sitting alderman. After the Mendicity Society's officer had given some further evidence relative to the prisoner's begging avocations, he was questioned by the alderman as to the term and nature of his acquaintance with the girl. His reply was—

"I went out one night to buy some victuals for my dog. It was late, and I called out to the people I heard passing by, where can I get any dog's meat? At last Eliza heard me, and she came and took me to a cat's-meat shop, where I got what I wanted, and I asked her to come home and take a cup of tea with me, and I would try and make her comfortable. So she agreed to come home with me, and we had our tea, and then she said it was a quarter to eleven o'clock she was shut out, and she did not know where to go. I told her whenever she was shut out to come to me, and she should have what she wanted. And she has lived with me ever since."

It appeared that the defendant could as a Malay be sent back to India, and at the close of his examination the magistrate said he should remand him for a week in order to make arrangements for sending him back to his own country. The girl, who was next examined, gave a similar account of her first acquaintance with the black; and the alderman said he should communicate with those who had it in their power and inclination to send her away from this scene of her disgrace; and that he should consign her to the care of proper parties for a week, in which time preparations would be made for her departure.

A dreadful attempt at *Murder and Suicide* was made in Westminster on the 8th inst. A Chelsea pensioner, named Martin White, having quarrelled some days ago with a woman, named Hurley, with whom he cohabited, left her and went into lodgings at Devonshire-place, Broadway. On the above evening the woman came there, and hearing he was there waited for him. On his return, partially intoxicated, high words ensued, and on a policeman entering the room he found both the parties lying exhausted on the floor, bleeding profusely, the woman from very severe gashes about the face, neck, and arms, and the man White from a dreadful wound in the throat. A razor covered with blood was lying on the floor, and had evidently been the instrument with which the wounds were inflicted. They were immediately removed to the hospital. White has affirmed that the woman cut his throat.

In the *Arches Court*, on the 10th, Sir J. Dodson gave judgment in the case of the Rev. Mr. Gladstone, affirming the decision of the Bishop of London, and admonishing the rev. gentleman against preaching and administering divine service in the unconsecrated chapel of Long Acre, and from performing divine service there or elsewhere in the diocese of London and province of Canterbury till he had obtained a license. Mr. Gladstone was likewise condemned in the costs of the proceedings. He has appealed.

The House of Lords has given judgment against the Duke of Atholl on a point of importance in the *Glen Tilt* case. Among the preliminary defences raised by the duke in the "action of declarator" against him, has been one on the question whether the parties who are principals in the cause were entitled to be parties in that action, considering the remoteness of their connexion with the road through Glen Tilt, and the few opportunities they would have of exercising their right over it, they being respectively citizens of Aberdeen, Perth, and Edinburgh. The Lord Chancellor pronounced the judgment of the House of Lords; he swept away the objection, and affirmed broadly the title of the plaintiffs to prosecute. "If parties could sue who

live in Blair, why not those in Pitlochry; and if in Pitlochry, why not further off? Why exclude the cities of Edinburgh, Perth, and Aberdeen—the metropolis of Scotland, and the principal places in the counties through which the road ran?" The appeal of the duke from the judgment of the Court of Session was dismissed with costs. The main question, as to the public right of way through Glen Tilt, remains to be tried on the merits.

In the court of Criminal Appeal, on the 11th, judgment was given in the case of Hannah Moore. She had been tried for *Child Murder*, but convicted only of the lesser offence of concealment of the birth. At the trial, a confession the woman had made to her mistress was admitted as evidence: the mistress had told the prisoner that "it would be better to tell the truth." Was this such an "inducement" to confess as to render the confession inadmissible? In pronouncing the judgment of the court, Mr. Baron Parke said, it had been admitted that confessions ought to be excluded, if not made voluntarily. The rule had been laid down, that if a threat or inducement had been held out by a person in authority, it could not be received, however trifling the threat or inducement might be; but if it should be held out by any one not in authority, the confession was clearly admissible. The offence had not been committed against the mistress in this case, and neither was it probable that she would have been the prosecutrix; therefore she could not be considered a person having authority in the matter. The conviction was affirmed.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 16th, Edward Little was convicted of *Embezzling the money of his Employer*. The notable point in the case was the conduct of the Guarantee Society, who were the sureties of the prisoner. When Little's defalcations became known, he proposed to repay Mr. Dawkes, his employer, by selling some property in Ireland; the society, who never pay till defaulters have been convicted in a court of justice, were nothing loth to the composition proposed; but when delay and obstruction arose, they drove Mr. Dawkes to prosecute, by refusing otherwise to make up the defalcations. Their secretary previously wrote to Little, threatening prosecution if he did not pay. The prisoner's counsel denounced the conduct of the society; and the Recorder observed, that such a society was a most dangerous one, and had the negotiation been carried out, the parties would all have been liable to an indictment; such conduct ought to attract the attention of the Attorney-General. The prisoner, who was said to have been led into dishonesty by the encumbrance of a sickly wife and other distresses, was sentenced to be imprisoned for six months.

The same day, Henry Baker was tried for a *Misdemeanour*, in having unlawfully kept two or more lunatic persons in his private house, without a license from the Commissioners of Lunacy. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was ordered to enter into a personal recognisance of 1000*l.*, and find two sureties in 500*l.* each, to appear and receive judgment in case he should be called upon to do so.

The trial of a criminal information at the instance of *Dr. Achilli, against Dr. John Henry Newman* came on in the Court of Queen's Bench on the 21st instant. The defendant was charged with composing and publishing a *Libel*, contained in a pamphlet by Dr. Newman published in October last, entitled "Lectures on the present Position of Catholics in England." The following is a portion of the passage in the pamphlet on which the prosecutor's plea was founded:—

"The Protestant world flocks to hear him, because he has something to tell of the Catholic church. He has a something to tell, it is true; he has a scandal to reveal: he has an argument to exhibit. It is a simple one and a powerful one as far as it goes, and it is one. That one argument is himself. It is his presence which is the triumph of Protestants. It is the sight of him which is a Catholic's confusion. It is, indeed, our great confusion that our holy mother could have had a priest like him. He feels the force of the argument, and he shows himself to the multitude that is gazing on him. 'Mothers of families,' he seems to say, 'gentle maidens, innocent children, look at me, for I am worth looking at. You do not see such a sight every day. Can any church live over the imputation of such a production as I am? I have been a Catholic and an infidel; I have been a Roman priest and a hypocrite; I have been a profligate under a cow.' I am that Father Achilli, who,

as early as 1826, was deprived of my faculty to lecture for an offence which my superiors did their best to conceal; and who, in 1827, had already earned the reputation of a scandalous friar. I am that Achilli who in the diocese of Viterbo in February, 1831, robbed of her honour a young woman of eighteen; who in September, 1833, was found guilty of a second such crime, in the case of a person of twenty-eight; and who perpetrated a third in July, 1834, in the case of another aged twenty-four. I am he, who was afterwards found guilty of sins, similar or worse, in other towns of the neighbourhood. I am that son of St. Dominic who is known to have repeated the offence at Capua, in 1834 or 1835; and at Naples again, in 1840, in the case of a child of fifteen. I am he who closed the sacristy of the church for one of these crimes, and Good Friday for another. Look on me, ye mothers of England, a confessor against Popery, for ye "heer may look upon my like again." I am that veritable priest, who, after all this, began to speak against, not only the Catholic faith, but the moral law, and perverted others by my teaching. I am the cavaliere Achilli, who then went to Corfu, made the wife of a tailor faithless to her husband, and lived publicly and travelled about with the wife of a chorus-singer. I am that professor in the Protestant college at Malta, who with two others was dismissed from my post for offences which the authorities cannot get themselves to describe. And now attend to me, such as I am, and you shall see what you shall see about the barbarity and profligacy of the inquisitors of Rome. You speak truly, O Achilli, and we cannot answer you a word. You are a priest; you have been a friar; you are, it is undeniable, the scandal of Catholicism, and the primary argument of Protestants, by your extraordinary depravity."

The defendant pleaded first, not guilty, upon which issue was joined; secondly, he pleaded certain allegations of fact, and said that the libel was true in substance, and that its publication was for the public benefit. To this the prosecutor replied that the defendant had published it in his own wrong and without the alleged cause. Upon this plea issue was also joined. The prosecutor having proved the libel, the defendant brought forward evidence in justification; for which purpose several women were examined, and deposed to the acts of immorality committed by Dr. Achilli in various parts of Italy and also in London; witnesses also swore to Dr. Achilli's alleged conduct at Corfu; and evidence was given of the judgment of the inquisition, whereby, on the ground of such charges, Dr. Achilli had been deprived of all ecclesiastical functions for ever, and sent to a convent for three years. On the part of the prosecution, Dr. Achilli himself was examined at great length; and pointedly denied the truth of the statements made against him. His evidence was a full account of the principal circumstances of his life. He also brought evidence to his own character and to the effect of discrediting the witnesses for the defendant. On the 24th, the fourth day of the trial, Sir A. E. Cockburn addressed the jury at great length for the defence, and was followed by the Attorney-General for the prosecution. Lord Campbell summed up; and the jury, after deliberating for nearly three hours, returned a verdict, finding the 19th charge proved and all the rest not proved. The 19th charge was that which respected Dr. Achilli's having been deprived of his professorship and prohibited from preaching and hearing confession. Lord Campbell directed a verdict to be entered for the Crown on that issue as well as on the plea of not guilty, stating that he would report the above special finding to the court when necessary. A juror begged his lordship to understand that they did not consider this case as regarded Protestantism and Catholicism; they only looked at it as a matter of fact. Lord Campbell: "Oh, I am sure you have dealt with it conscientiously." Lord cheerers were now given, which the learned judge did not for a moment attempt to check. Some conversation took place between his lordship, the jury, and the learned counsel, respecting the fees to be paid to the jury. All parties agreed that it was a "hard case;" but his lordship said he had no power to grant anything like an indemnity, and, accordingly, only the customary nominal fee was paid to each jurymen.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

A CORONER'S inquest has been made into the causes of the deaths of the sixty-five men and boys who lost their

lives by the *Explosion of the Middle Duffryn Colliery*, Aberdare, mentioned in the "Household Narrative" for last month. The evidence given was that of a great many miners employed in the works; that of Mr. Blackwell, the government inspector who gave evidence at the inquest held in 1850, on the bodies of some thirty miners who were then killed by an explosion in the same pit; and that of Mr. Mackworth, the government inspector who has reported on the present disaster. The general causes of the explosion are made very clear by the scientific evidence. The Middle Duffryn pit is a deep working in what is called "a maiden country"—that is to say, a country only recently opened by mining enterprise; the seams of coal in which have not been drained of their gases, as those of the longer worked coal-fields have been, by shafts and passages that have been ventilated for generations past. They are therefore pervaded by explosive gases, the enormous pressure on which, at the great depths the coal is worked, makes them fly off at every pore. Occasionally they break loose with a force that rends the coal, or shale, like a gunpowder blast. In this instance a sudden and violent escape threw down a large portion of the roof, and so flooded the workings with explosive gas, that when the ventilating currents which had passed through the broken region came to the furnace which creates the ventilating draught in the upcast shaft, they exploded backwards throughout 450 yards of air-way, and made the currents for the whole of that distance poisonous to human respiration. It is certain that only a very few of those who died were killed by the force or heat of the explosion; nearly all died simply of suffocation by "the after-damp"—that is to say, from the non-vitality of the air after the explosion had deprived it of all its oxygen. It is plain from this description, that the secondary cause of the disaster was the use of the furnace in the upcast shaft. This furnace was specifically condemned by Mr. Blackwell, the government inspector, at the inquest in 1850; and Mr. Mackworth ascribed the present calamity to the persistence in its use, in such a position that the explosive air was brought into immediate contact with it as it left the mine. Of the general management of the mine, however, he gave very high praises; therein concurring with all the miners. It also appeared that the owner of the mine had consulted managers of experience and science after Mr. Blackwell gave his opinion against the furnace, and that he was guided by their advice in retaining it. The coroner alluded to this fact, and called the attention of the jury explicitly to the discrepancy of scientific opinion as to the safety of bratticed shafts, with furnaces open to the whole draught of the upcast currents. The jury found a verdict of "accidental death;" and expressed their opinion "that there is no neglect or culpability attaching to any of the agents or men in their employ, notwithstanding we much regret that the recommendations of the jury and the suggestions of Mr. Blackwell in his report on the occasion of the last explosion, had not been complied with; and we earnestly recommend that the proprietors be enjoined to adopt Mr. Blackwell's plan of ventilation, especially the dumb draft."

The evidence at the inquest on the thirty-six persons who perished by an *Explosion in the Dornbrook Pit* near Preston (see "Household Narrative" for May, p. 111), fully bore out the first statement of the cause of the disaster—the foolish and criminal temerity of the colliers, who forced their way with naked lights into a part of the workings which the fireman pronounced dangerous, disregarding the warnings and threats of the fireman's son, who had been directed to prevent their working at that place. The verdict was "accidental death."

Incredible as it may seem, on the very day of the inquest, a week after the fatal disaster, a second explosion occurred in the same pit from the misconduct of a workman! The new workings had been examined and found safe, but the abandoned workings had not been inspected; it was not deemed necessary, because the people knew they ought not to enter them: yet a miner went into one of the recesses with a naked candle, the gas fired, and two men and two boys were burnt, the men severely.

An accident occurred on the *Shropshire Union Railway*, on the 29th ult., from the negligence of a fireman. At Shrewsbury station, a man lighted a fire in a locomotive which was presently to be used; without shutting off the steam or throwing the machinery out of gear, he left the engine untended in a shed. When the steam got up, the locomotive slowly left the shed, and moved down the rails upon which a train for Stafford was then proceeding. The engine gradually increased its speed, till on descending an incline near Wellington it is supposed that it went at the rate of seventy miles an hour. Three miles farther on, at Donnington, the Stafford train had stopped. The runaway engine dashed into it, and the two hindmost carriages were smashed to pieces. Thirteen persons were hurt, three of them so badly that they could not be removed from the place. A coroner's inquest has found a verdict of "manslaughter" against Joseph Thompson, the man who had negligently left the engine untended in the shed.

While the new *Corn Exchange* at *Liverpool* was crowded with people about noon on the 8th inst., Mr. Forbes Mackenzie and Mr. Charles Turner, the Protectionist candidates, being present to canvass the electors, the floor gave way, and the crowd fell with the ruins into the cellarage beneath,—a depth of ten or twelve feet. But though the people were rudely jammed together, and the sample-stands fell upon them, none of those who had been on the floor were killed, though some were wounded and made insensible. Unfortunately, two labouring men were beneath the floor eating their dinners; one was taken out dead, and the other died soon after. An inquest was held on their bodies, and the jury found a verdict of "accidental death," qualified by censure. They found that Philip Code, the clerk of the works, was "highly blameable" for allowing the centres to be removed without the express permission of the architect, especially as the architect had declared the step would be dangerous till the whole building was completed; and they were of opinion that "the Corn Exchange Committee was not entirely free from blame." They also asserted generally, their opinion "that it is a practice much to be censured that public bodies take the lowest tenders for work, without regard to the means of the parties to carry that work to completion."

Mr. George Thompson, an iron and coal master at Minera, near Wrexham, has been killed on the branch railway which traverses his estate. Mr. Thompson, eighty-three years old, was crossing the rails on a pony, when a train dashed up and struck the pony. Mr. Thompson died after six hours of unconsciousness.

A *Fatal Accident* took place at Oxford on the 7th. A few minutes after the ceremonial of opening the baths and wash-houses had been concluded, and before several of the gentlemen had left the building, a rumbling noise was heard, which was succeeded by a heavy crash. It was discovered that the hot and cold water cisterns had fallen, and that the tall shaft and walls adjoining were thrown down, presenting a desolate heap of ruins upon the very spot where, but a few minutes before, the founders and supporters of the undertaking were congratulating themselves on the successful termination of their labours. A boy named Burchell, and Wordsworth, a stoker, lost their lives. The stoker's wife, who was with him partaking of dinner, was very much bruised. A boy, named Hosier, had his thigh broken; and two little girls sustained considerable injury.

A *Fatal Railway Accident* occurred on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line on the 8th, near the Woodhouse junction. The engine of the goods train was thrown off the rails, and sustained considerable damage. The passenger carriage, and several of the ballast waggons, were crushed to pieces, and two men who were sitting in one of the compartments of the carriage, unaware of the danger, were killed on the spot. Their names are Waller and Walker, married men, residing at Brigg.

Another *Railway Accident*, also fatal, occurred on the 11th, on the Aylesbury branch of the North-western Railway. As a passenger train was approaching the junction with the North-western main line at Ched-

dington, the engine left the rails, broke from its tender, dashed through a hedge, and fell over on its side in a field. The driver retained his place till the locomotive turned over: he was only stunned. The tender, breakdown, and two foremost carriages, left the rails on the opposite side. George Allen, the guard, was thrown off by the sudden stoppage, and he died in a few minutes. The carriages were somewhat damaged, but the passengers suffered only from fright and bruises. The branch consists of a single line of rails: it is a dead level, and perfectly straight. A coroner's jury was held, when it was proved that the speed of the engine was regular and proper; and that if the disaster was attributable to anything but pure and unaccountable accident, the inferior order of the line might have had some bad influence. However, Captain Galton, government inspector, said that "the line appeared to him generally in good order." It was made when light engines were used, and heavy engines are not used on it to this time. The engine is supposed to have jumped at some uneven joint in the rails. The jury deliberated for more than an hour, and returned the following verdict:—

"We find that the deceased, George Allen, came by his death by accidental circumstances, in consequence of the engine of the train of which he was the guard jumping off the line of the Aylesbury Railway. The jury think that owing to the clay sub-soil the rails and sleepers require constant attention and care; and that it appears from the evidence that there is not in places sufficient ballast above the clay; that the bearings are too far apart, the jury considering that there should be another sleeper under each rail. That no satisfactory reason appearing in the evidence for the engine getting off the rails, the jury are unable to come to any other conclusion than that there was some defect connected with the rails or the sleepers in the neighbourhood of the accident."

The great printing establishment of Messrs. Clowes, in Duke Street, Stamford Street, suffered severely by a fire on the 10th. A little before two o'clock, while most of the workmen were at dinner, it was discovered that the warehouse called the "chapel"—a building formerly used by a Unitarian congregation—was in flames. Engines were soon obtained; and every effort was made to stay the progress of the fire; but from the inflammable nature of the stock the fire spread to another warehouse, the two upper floors of which, with the whole of the "chapel," were destroyed. The loss of property is very great. About two hundred tons of type have been melted; twenty thousand reams of paper, and a vast quantity of printed books consumed. Among the books consumed, was the whole edition of the new octavo Illustrated Great Exhibition Catalogue, Catalogues in other sizes, Knight's Illustrated Shakespeare, and many other completed works. The origin of the fire is unknown, as no lights or fires were allowed in the "chapel": it is supposed that some one had carelessly thrown down a match after lighting a pipe or cigar. The fire was at first believed to have destroyed 50,000*l.* worth of property, but it has since appeared that the loss will not exceed 4000*l.* or 5000*l.*

An *Explosion* in Bunker's Hill Colliery, Bilston, has caused the loss of five lives, and seventeen other men have been badly hurt. On Sunday the 13th, a man went down to feed the horses, and negligently left open an air-door, which stopped the ventilation; when the workmen entered with candles on Monday morning the accumulated gas exploded. A skip was descending full of workmen at the time, and all but one were blown out of it by the explosion. The disaster was increased by the explosion of two casks of gunpowder.

During a *Thunder-Storm*, which lately passed over Ipswich, a young woman named Stevens was struck by the electric fluid. She had retired to rest, and noticed nothing during the storm, beyond being greatly heated; but upon rising on the following morning she discovered that the whole of her hair on the right side and part on the back of the head had been burnt off by the lightning, the other portion being much singed. The left side was uninjured. The hair removed is about a foot long.

Captain Colby has been killed by a *Tiger* in India. He went out tiger-shooting at the foot of the hills on which the Muree depot is situated; and having come upon a large male tiger, fired at and wounded him, as he supposed, mortally. Upon this he drew near with

his elephant, and descending, approached the tiger, which lay to all appearance dead; but on his coming close to it, it sprang upon him, and mutilated him dreadfully. He was rescued by the Mahouts and other natives of the shooting party, some of whom immediately started for Rawul Pindee to give information. Two medical officers arrived early the next morning. They found Captain Colby dreadfully mangled, and judged amputation of the left arm indispensable. The operation was at once performed, near the shoulder; but so great had been the loss of blood, that the patient sank, and expired the same evening.

A poor schoolmaster has died in London from *Starvation*. An inquest was held on the 18th at a public house in Gray's-Inn-lane, on the body of an elderly man, named John Nicholls. It appeared that he had been formerly a schoolmaster, but was latterly so reduced as to be compelled to earn his livelihood by writing window bills for tradesmen, and with all his industry sometimes only realised a few pence a week. The parish allowed a loaf a week for the support of himself and wife, who is paralysed. During the last twelve months he was daily sinking from sheer starvation, but still buoyed up with the hope of getting some property to which he was entitled. On Monday morning his wife found him dead in bed at her side. The following day he became entitled to 120l. in cash, and 60l. a year. A surgeon deposed that death resulted from want and disease of the lungs. The foreman, on behalf of the jury, expressed their horror and disgust at the parochial authorities limiting the support of deceased and his paralysed wife to a solitary loaf of bread a week, instead of inquiring into their wants, and contributing a sufficient quantity of food for their support. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and accompanied by the following addendum:—"And the jury express their opinion that the applicants for relief on this parish ought uniformly to be visited by proper officers by order of the parochial authorities, immediately after the application for relief, and from time to time afterwards, so long as they are in receipt of that relief, in order that the extent of their wants may be ascertained."

Additional correspondence about the *Two Ships seen on the Icebergs* by the crew and passenger of the "Renovation," in the spring of last year, has been published by the Admiralty. Captain Coward has been examined at Venice, and his testimony is in harmony with that already published of Mr. Simpson, the mate of the "Renovation." Captain Coward states that he was very ill at the time the vessels were first sighted, and, coming on deck to see them, he remained there but a short time: as he thought, and still thinks, that the ships were two Greenlandmen abandoned, and as the sea was very heavy, and the neighbourhood of the ice dangerous to his own old ship. Mr. Lynch, the intelligent passenger who sailed in the "Renovation," and who first saw the ships, has been traced out, and found at Prescott in Canada; and has been fully examined. In one of the official letters in the correspondence the following sentence occurs:—"Mr. Lynch 'was of opinion that they were the ships belonging to Sir John Franklin's expedition; an opinion in the accuracy of which there seems now to be a general concurrent belief, including her Majesty's government.'"

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE *Electric Telegraph* has been carried across the Irish Channel, from Holyhead to the Hill of Howth. The operation was successfully completed on the 1st inst., by the Irish Electric Telegraph Company: the cable enclosing the electric wire—eighty miles long—was manufactured by Messrs. Newall and Co., of Gateshead, the same firm who made the Straits-of-Dover cable. The distance from Holyhead to the Hill of Howth is about sixty-five miles: the steamer from which the cable was paid out was worked across in about eighteen hours.

An electric telegraph has been constructed at the Bank of England, forming a perfect system of commu-

nication from room to room. The rooms of the Governor and Deputy Governor are by this means placed in direct and immediate communication with every important department; and the most perfect secrecy of communication is insured by the use of an apparatus by which a message intended for one particular office cannot be read at another.

A return to the House of Commons has been printed, showing that on the 1st of September last the number of licenses of hackney carriages in the metropolis was 3518; the weekly duty in the year amounted to 85,587l. These hackney carriages are nearly all cabs.

A meeting of the parishioners of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields was held on the 9th, to inaugurate the establishment of a *Library and Reading Room for the Working Classes*, in the building of the Northern Schools, Castle-street, Long Acre. The Vicar announced a valuable contribution of books from Prince Albert, a donation of 5l. from the Lord Bishop of London, and read also letters expressing sympathy and countenance from the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Goderich, Lord J. Manners, Sir W. P. Wood, and other gentlemen, who were unavoidably prevented from attending. The Earl of Harrowby, who followed, said he was gratified at being present to encourage the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in another of those good works for which it had made itself conspicuous among the parishes of the metropolis. They were the first to lead the way in the establishment of those great parochial institutions, baths and washhouses, and now they had provided an institution for the cultivation of the mind. He believed they had done right in beginning with the body, for if that was not comfortable, it was difficult for the mind to be at ease. He wished every parish school in the country was a parish library also, where the children, youths, and parents could carry on their studies together, and where dignity was added to the elementary instruction of their children by their witnessing the intellectual enjoyment of the elders. The association between the library for the adult and the school for the child was of great social advantage, and he could not imagine a more humanising institution than the one they were met to celebrate, or an institution which would better cement the bonds of society and better promote the general good.

The annual general meeting of the *National School Society* took place on the 10th. The chair was taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, adverting to the report, said it contained gratifying information respecting the state of education throughout the country. He believed the character of the education given had been greatly improved by raising the qualifications of the teachers, and the exertions which had been made with so much self-denial in many cases had not been without their fruit, but were beginning to tell upon the rising generation. It was now more easy than it used to be to obtain some proportion at least of the expense of maintaining the schools from the parents of the children who received education. All who were well acquainted with the poor of this country knew that they were keenly sensitive as to the value of any article for which they paid; and it was because the poor found that the education which their children now received was far better than they could formerly obtain, that they were willing to pay towards its support. He might also remark that at the seasons of confirmation he now observed a degree of earnestness, of animation, and of intelligence on the part of the young persons brought before him, which it would have been vain to look for some years ago. The report was then read, and the meeting proceeded to dispose of Archdeacon Denison's resolution respecting the alleged suppression of the catechism in schools in union with the National Society, and to discuss that gentleman's resolution on the management clauses. Archdeacon Denison addressed the meeting, and stated that, in consequence of a memorial which had been addressed to the committee of the society by the Rev. Mr. Keble, reciting the solemn terms of the charter, and praying for an inquiry into the alleged suppression of the catechism in church teaching, and the answer which the committee had returned, that it meant to abide by the charter, and not to allow any tampering with the catechism in its

schools, he withdrew his first resolution. The dispute on the management clauses was also settled; and from this cause the Home-Secretary had announced, in the House of Commons, the intention of the government to modify the restrictions placed upon grants to church schools, and Archdeacon Denison, referring to the aspect of the management-clauses question, and to the avowed intentions of ministers, withdrew his second resolution with the full concurrence of his friends.

The annual meeting of the subscribers of the association for *Improved Dwellings for the Industrious Classes* was held on the 18th, at Willis's Rooms, Sir Ralph Howard, Bart., in the chair. From the eighth report of the directors, it appears that the total net receipts for the year for rents, &c., amounted to 2,158*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* The report showed the gratifying fact, that, in consequence of the sanitary arrangements in the society's dwellings, the mortality has been much less than the ordinary average. In the Pancras Old-road buildings, the average population is about 600, among whom there have been, during the year, but nine deaths. In the family dwellings in Albert-street, the population is about 300, of whom only four have died. In the Metropolitan chambers in Albert-street, for single men, out of a population of 120 there has been but one death, and that arose from an accident out of the chambers. These chambers are but partially occupied; "the advantages afforded by them," we quote the report, "not being sufficiently appreciated by the inhabitants of the district." The report adds, that while rents for half a bed in houses in the adjoining streets are the same (2*s.* 6*d.* per week), they are resorted to in preference to these chambers, where each man has a separate compartment and bed, and most commodious living room accommodation. The chairman having moved the adoption of the report, the Earl of Carlisle, in seconding it, congratulated the shareholders that there was now the prospect of a moderate return for their expenditure. By being reproductive, an useful undertaking furnished the means of effecting further good and useful objects, and thus achieved a double triumph. Mr. Charles Cochrane complained that greater hopes of profit were held out than the facts justified, and he doubted whether it would not be better to make the institution altogether a charitable one. A long discussion arose upon this point, in the course of which it was explained, on the part of the society, that though their charter gave them the power to raise 100,000*l.*, they had only raised half that amount, and that, as the expense of the staff was as great for the smaller as it would be for the larger amount, there was every reason to suppose that when the capital was increased there would be a larger dividend. A dividend of 3 per cent. was declared.

The *Great Exhibition at Cork* was opened on the 10th. The Lord-lieutenant presided at the ceremonies of the inauguration, during which he conferred the honour of knighthood on the mayor of Cork, now Sir William Hackett. His excellency also presided at a splendid banquet in the evening. The grand saloon of the exhibition, in which the ceremony of the inauguration took place, is 182 feet in length by 53 feet in breadth, and 50 feet in height. It is covered with an arched roof, which is composed along the centre of glass. This entire structure is built of yellow pine wood, the walls and arched ceiling being divided into compartments by richly tessellated girders. The south end of the building is occupied by a splendid organ by Telford, erected on a lofty platform, which is approached by a series of steps, whereon the orchestra is disposed. The sides of the hall to one-half their height are covered with fine paintings exclusively the production of Irish art. They have been contributed by the National Art societies, and by individual artists. Each picture is let into a panel suitable to its size, the whole forming a grand effect. Grouped along the entire length of the hall are placed the choicest triumphs of the sculptor's art, from the studios of Hogan, McDowell, Kirke, Foley, and other Irish artists of eminence. In the centre of the hall is erected a handsomely-designed hydraulic fountain, from which springs a *jet d'eau*. The Exhibition was opened for the admission of the general public on the morning of the 11th, when the influx of visitors was immense.

The *Sales of Land in Dublin*, under the Encumbered Estates Act, are proceeding with great activity. The great Martin property, in Connemara, has been sold to the Law Life Assurance Society for 186,000*l.*; but no money is to be paid, as the society are encumbrancers to the extent of 200,000*l.* The property is purchased in the name of the trustees—the Right Hon. John Lord Campbell, Sir J. G. Turner, Sir Edward Hall Alderson, and J. W. Farrer.

The *Rental of the City of Edinburgh*, within the police bounds, has risen during the last five years more than twenty per cent. It is now somewhere about 450,000*l.*; more than 100,000*l.* having been added to it within the time specified.

It appears from a return to parliament, that in 1841 the number of *British Vessels* which had entered the port of London, engaged in the foreign trade, was 4016 sailing, and 626 steamers; and in ten years, in 1851, the number was 5190 sailing, and 1403 steamers; while of foreign vessels there were in 1841, 1927 sailing, and 72 steamers; and last year the number had increased to 3474 sailing, and 274 steam-vessels.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Waterloo Banquet was given, as usual, by the Duke of Wellington, on the 18th. There were eighty-four of the Duke's companions in fight; and among them Sir Harry Smith, whose health was proposed by the Duke, and drunk by the warrior-guests, with especial emphasis.

The Queen has conferred the dignity of a baronet on Mr. Sheriff Alison.

Mr. William Henry Willes, one of the members of the last Common Law Commission, has been appointed by the Inns of Court, lecturer on the branches of the Common Law which are not included in constitutional law, the law of real property and conveyancing, devises and bequests.

Mr. John George Phillimore, Q.C. has been elected by the Council of Legal Education, representing all the Inns of Court, to the chair of Constitutional Law and Legal History founded by the four Inns of Court.

The Rev. G. E. L. Cotton, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Assistant Master of Rugby School, has been elected Head Master of Marlborough College, Wiltshire.

Dr. Cullen has received the Pope's brief, appointing him Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin.

Professor Liebig has at length yielded to the inducements held out to him by the Bavarian Government to leave Giessen and settle at the University of Munich. He is to commence his labours there with the winter season.

Mr. Feargus O'Connor has been discharged from the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and removed to Dr. Tooke's establishment at Chiswick.

Among the persons of note who have recently emigrated to Australia, are Mr. R. W. Florine, and Mr. William Howitt.

Professor Mac Deugall of the Free Church College, has been appointed to the chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the resignation of Professor Wilson.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

THE HON. JOHN CHETWYND TALBOT, Recorder of Windsor, and Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales, died suddenly at Brighton, on May 25, in his forty-eighth year.

Mr. JOHN FRIEDMAN, the late member for Oldham, died on the 28th of May.

A Canadian paper records the death of Mr. CHARLES BOUCHER, of Berthier, district of Montreal, at the advanced age of 106. He was married to three wives, with whom he had sixty children! He leaves forty-three children, sixty-six grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, twenty-eight nephews, seventy grand-nephews, and eighteen great grand-nephews.

Vice-Admiral ROBERT JACKSON died at Kensington, on the 3rd inst., in his eighty-seventh year.

The Rev. W. J. BURNFORD, D.D., Rector of Magdalen Laver, Essex, died at Fildon, on the 8th, in his seventy-seventh year.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE intelligence by the Overland Mail from *Bombay* comes down to the 22nd of May. The expedition under General Godwin against the Burmese arrived before Martaban, a town in the neighbourhood of Rangoon, on the morning of the 5th of April. The place was immediately stormed and taken, with a very trifling loss. Rangoon itself was carried by storm after two days' fighting on the 12th and 13th. The list of casualties amounted to 17 killed and 132 wounded; but several officers and men died from the effects of the climate. The slaughter among the Burmese seems to have been immense, and the place, after its capture, was full of dead bodies. The cholera had begun to rage among the British troops, and a number of men had died.

There is no recent intelligence from *Rangoon*. Our forces will remain there until the termination of the rainy season; and should the war continue, additional troops will be sent from Bombay, Bengal, and Madras. At Bombay, two European and four native regiments have been selected for this service. Sir Colin Campbell has been again called forth with considerable forces to act against the native tribes in the north-west.

A system of Thuggee has been discovered in the *Punjab*. Five hundred murderers have been found, and the names of 320 rebellious Thugs obtained; 120 are in prison, and the majority have confessed the crime. It is stated that the Nizam is willing to liquidate his debt by a cession of territory.

The new governor of the *Cape of Good Hope*, General Cathcart, arrived at King William's Town on the 7th of April, and immediately assumed the command. Sir Harry Smith left King William's Town on the following day, and sailed from Cape Town for England, after various demonstrations of respect from the principal inhabitants.

Montreal has been visited with a most destructive conflagration which has laid in ashes a considerable number of buildings in the business part of the city. The fire commenced at six o'clock in the morning, on the 6th instant, at the corner of St. Peter and Lemoine streets, in the carpenters' shop of J. Martin, which, together with his residence, was quickly consumed, and two of his children were burned to death; one died on the spot, and the other in the course of the afternoon.

From this point, the fire advanced to old St. Andrew's Church, which, together with the dwelling-house of J. Mahony, and several outbuildings, was destroyed. The fire then extended its ravages as far as Little St. Joseph-street, where it was subdued. Several houses facing the steamboat landings were consumed. The total loss is estimated at 250,000*l.* to 300,000*l.*

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

Mrs. Chisholm's second group meeting on *Australian Emigration* was held on the evening of the 4th at the Islington Bazaar. The room was crowded to excess. Mrs. Chisholm remarked that it was of the greatest importance to secure the clip of wool this year, as, in the event of its being lost, thousands in Yorkshire would be reduced to pauperism. Her suggestion was, that the Yorkshire manufacturers should subscribe a certain amount to send out boys (with the consent of their parents) who were too young to obtain a licence for the diggings. She urged all intending emigrants to examine well the quality of the provisions of the vessels by which they were to sail, and ascertain the names of the parties who supplied the vessel. Emigrants paid their ready money, and certainly ought to have good accommodation. She strongly recommended persons not to go out singly, but in parties of fifty; and if such a number came to her she would get another fifty to join them. As a sign that some attention was being paid to the subject, Mrs. Chisholm mentioned that model ships were being fitted up at Liverpool at the present time for the conveyance of emigrants. There are now forty-four vessels advertised in the "Post-office Packet List" to take out private ship letter bags to Australia, and all of which are to sail by the middle of July next. The aggregate tonnage of these vessels amounts to above 30,000. Thirteen of these vessels are for Sydney and twenty-two for Melbourne and Port Phillip.

Large vessels are weekly leaving the Broomielaw, filled with passengers; and by the end of the season, there is little doubt that a larger number of emigrants will have left the Clyde than in any previous year. The number of emigrants who have sailed from the various ports on the river, up to the beginning of the month, is 6050. The destination of these persons, with the exception of from two to three hundred, is North America.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE most remarkable piece of intelligence from *France*, is the attack made by the President upon the English press. The Paris Correspondents of the *Morning Chronicle*, *Daily News*, and *Morning Advertiser*, were called before the Minister of Police, and informed that if the Journals with which they were connected continued their injurious comments on the conduct of the President, the French government would hold them, the correspondents, as responsible, and would expel them from France. The correspondents had recourse to the English Ambassador, who undertook to remonstrate with the French authorities on the subject; but it appears that he has not obtained any change in the determination of the government.

A strange scene occurred in the Corps Législatif on the 21st. The President had sent to that body, for the second time, his financial scheme for the ensuing year, giving them to understand that by the new Constitution they were bound to adopt it as a whole. But the members felt enough of the spirit of freemen to venture upon a discussion of the items placed before them for approval. In an obscure part of the gallery of the house—in the corner of one of the reserved tribunes, in such a position as to be concealed as much as possible—sat the President himself, to watch the proceedings of his Chamber. A member urged objections to the proposition to adopt a budget to which no amendments

could be made, and which must be taken as a whole or be rejected altogether, when M. Billault said the speaker was inveighing against the constitution; slight murmurs were heard. Another speaker attacked the budget, when a Councillor of State expressed his astonishment that any one "could outrage the constitution which had saved the country." A storm of disapprobation arose; but, when it was at its height, a note from the tenant of the obscure box reached the hands of the chairman, and he read to the astonished Assembly the opinion of the President, that they were breaking their bounds. "On this a profound sensation"—says the reporter for the English paper—"a profound sensation pervaded the chamber, which broke up in confusion."

The Emperor of *Austria* left Vienna on the 5th inst., with an immense retinue, on a tour through Hungary, with the view, it would seem, of endeavouring to gain popularity.

The *Venice* gazette publishes the following sentences, pronounced by the military court-martial sitting at Udine:—Claire Marchetti, the wife of Moretti, condemned to four months' imprisonment and one day's fasting per week, for high treason in the second degree; Julian Pezzetta, a clergyman, to one year's imprisonment

in a fortress, for having had prohibited works in his possession; and John Baptist del Meneo, a clergyman, to the same penalty, for having preached revolutionary sermons.

Another step towards amalgamating the refractory Poles with the *Russian* Empire has been taken by the Czar, who has issued an Imperial ukase, expressing his regret that the young Polish nobility prefer remaining idle to enlisting in the public service; and declaring that these feelings, so contrary to the duties of a gentle-

man, can be no longer tolerated. Certain compulsory regulations are therefore decreed.

The advices from *New York* are to the 12th inst. The intelligence, which chiefly concerns the presidential election, is not interesting. Kossuth was living privately at the Irving House, and in a few days was to leave for England. There had been a great slaughter of Indians on the south fork of the Trinity river; 150 were killed at one time: the Indians had murdered a Mr. Anderson.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THERE has been no month in our recollection in which so small a number of original books, and those also of such small importance, have issued from the press.

Let us first name the exceptions. Even these come rather within the category of republications, or new editions, than of books now for the first time published. Doctor Leonard Schmitz, the learned rector of the Edinburgh High School, has translated the great Niebuhr's *Lectures on Ancient History* (a series delivered not long before his death, and which may be characterised as a necessary supplement to his memorable researches in Roman history, in so far that, taken in connection with the latter, they complete a course of critical investigation embracing the whole of ancient history, by the most acute and original mind that has ever been applied to such subjects), from the original German edition of Doctor Marcus Niebuhr, the historian's son. The translation has at the same time the advantage of additions and corrections from notes of the translator, who was himself present at the delivery of a portion of the lectures, and who has been thus enabled to make the book in its English form (Thirlwall and Hare had done the same with the *History of Rome*) more valuable and correct than in the original German. Guizot's *Cornellie and his Times* is another reproduction of literary research and criticism, of which the original dates many years ago, but to which the distinguished writer has prefixed an introduction to which events of recent occurrence give considerable interest, for it refers to the period of the Empire of Napoleon as one with which true civilisation had no sympathy, and which, having itself no hold upon literature, left no enduring influence or memorial when it had passed away; leaving the reader in no kind of doubt as to M. Guizot's opinion of the chance of anything great or permanent arising out of the bastard empire now prevailing. Mr. Bentley has also produced in the same form a similar volume of M. Guizot's early criticism on *Shakspeare and his Times*. A fourth republication is that of Brande's *Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art*, with many additions. Mr. Arthur Helps has continued his interesting and original researches into early Spanish colonisation in a second volume of his *Conquerors of the New World and their Bondsmen*. Mrs. Green has given us a fourth volume of her carefully written, but not perhaps greatly wanted, *Lives of the Princesses of England*. The once eagerly-expected and hard-hitting *Poetry of the Anti-Jacobin* has made its re-appearance in a neat little volume. And Dr. Lardner has collected, in a volume on the *Great Exhibition*, not only a number of papers of his own originally published in the *Times*, but several other descriptions and illustrations of the world's fair contributed to the Parisian journals by celebrated French statisticians.

In a small volume entitled *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, Mr. Thomas Wright has described those archaeological discoveries at Richborough, Lynne, and other places, by which so clear and satisfactory evidence has been afforded of the prevalence of an extensive Latin civilisation in Britain before the Saxons settled on our shores. The author of *Visiting my Relations* has published another small volume of *Reminiscences of Thought and Feeling*, quite as cleverly written, and containing matter of more personal interest, for it describes with great apparent candour and truthfulness the writer's religious experience as one of the ladies

who imbibed tea and evangelism at the excellent Mr. Simcon's Cambridge evening entertainments between twenty and thirty years ago. *Symbols and Emblems of Early Christian Art*, by Louisa Teubner, is a not unsuccessful attempt, by means of a series of outlines explained by intelligent criticism, to collect and arrange in chronological order the principal forms which have been used symbolically throughout the period of early mediæval art. Archdeacon Hare's *Contest with Rome* is one of that able and distinguished churchman's charges delivered to the clergy of his Archdeaconry, and enriched by a series of subtle and well-directed notes on Father Newman's recent comparisons of Protestant and Roman Catholic doctrine. Doctor Roget's *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* is a volume which will be best described by saying that its object or aim is the exact reverse of that of an ordinary thesaurus or dictionary, seeing that the latter is meant to give you the ideas which answer most correctly to words, and Dr. Roget's meaning is to give you the words which answer most readily and variously to ideas. His hope is, by so facilitating expression in men whose words are more sluggish than their thoughts, to assist in promoting literary composition generally.

The rest of the noticeable books of the month have relation to foreign countries. An American traveller, Mr. Loring Brace, has published his painful experiences of the Austrian police, and his pleasant impressions of the Hungarian character, in a volume on *Hungary in 1851*. From another American gentleman, Mr. William Stiles, who held the important post of Minister for the United States at the Court of Vienna, we have a more elaborate work on *Austria in 1848-49*. This book includes a history of the revolutionary movements of the States in connection with the Empire which agitated those eventful years, preceded by historical notices of the several races subjected to Austria, making more intelligible to the general reader the character of their various discontents; and it derives considerable value from the tone as well as the opportunities of the writer. Both are in a certain sense official; the duties of office, and the means of information open to it, being observable as well in the amount of knowledge not common to previous writers, as in the moderation of tone adopted throughout notwithstanding Mr. Stiles's strong leanings to the liberal side. Mr. James Kennedy, one of our judges at the Havannah, has translated several specimens of the *Modern Poets and Poetry of Spain*. Mr. Rushton has translated a volume of military and political criticism by Col. Sigismund Haly on the *Fortress of Komorn during the War of Independence in Hungary in '48-9*, of which the object is mainly to expose the errors involved in its surrender. Capt. Francis Egerton has published two very agreeable volumes descriptive of *A Winter's Tour in India*. Mr. Horace St. John has written in the modest compass of two small volumes what he calls a *History of the British Conquests in India*. Capt. Mackinnon has filled about as much paper and print with a collection of *Atlantic and Transatlantic Sketches, Afloat and Ashore*. And the Italian correspondent of the *Times*, Mr. Michael Burke Honan, has narrated the personal history of what befell him when in attendance on the rival armies of Sardinia and Austria in the eventful campaign which ended in Charles Albert's overthrow, under the title of *Personal Adventures of our own Correspondent*.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

June 1st.—G. BAKER and G. BAKER, jun., Threadneedle-street, stockbrokers.—W. PARSONS, Merton, retailer of beer.—J. JUTSON, Greenwich, victualler.—E. KRETZSCHMAR, Kings-square, jeweller.—W. R. HILL, Birmingham, silversmith.—G. DOVER, Cheltenham, builder.—J. JONES, Macken, Monmouthshire, coal owner.

June 4th.—J. BLAKE, Attleburgh, innkeeper.—J. WEBB, Rugby, brazier.—T. JENKINS, Tredegar, innkeeper.—J. MARSDEN, Manchester, laceman.

June 8th.—A. FENTON, Coventry-street, Haymarket, stationer.—J. ELLIOTT, Derby, carrier.—F. SUTTON, Hull, ironmonger.—J. COKER, Saltash, Cornwall, merchant.—E. SHAMAM, Manchester, bricklayer.—D. McCONNELL, Liverpool, joiner.

June 11th.—T. LEVERS, Basinghall-street, warehouseman.—J. WHEATLEY, Kennington-cross, stable-keeper.—D. F. KENNETT, Oxford-street, victualler.—A. GABRIELLI and T. EDMOND, Old Broad-street, merchants.—J. DALLOW, Wolverhampton, cooper.—T. BATHGATE, Birmingham, draper.—S. BOYLE, Stoke-upon-Trent, manufacturer of china.—J. HURN, Gedney Hill, Lincolnshire, miller.—J. WILDSMITH and R. LONGLEY, Worsborough Dale, Yorkshire, boat-builders.—T. DILGER, Bradford, Yorkshire, general-dealer.—W. T. CARR, Barnsley, ironmonger.—J. T. HOTTEN, Penzance, watch-maker.—J. F. REEVES, Fitzhead, Somersetshire, money-scrivener.

June 15th.—T. SEYERS (and not LEVERS, as before advertised), Basinghall-street, woollen-cloth-warehouseman.—T. MORLEY, High Holborn, silversmith.—H. N. HUMPHREYS, Dorchester-place, Blandford-square, bookseller.—E. MOUNTCASTLE, King William-street, city, hatter.—J. CHALLEN, Brixton, brewer.—J. HIGGOTT, Cromford, Derbyshire, miller.—C. BROWN, Hull, flax-spinner.—H. TAYLOR, Waterfoot, Newchurch, Lancashire, coal-dealer.—T. G. ALANSON, Liverpool, wine-merchant.

June 18th.—E. S. MANICO, Mark-lane, merchant.—W. WHEELER, Abergavenny, innkeeper.—W. WOOD, Wath-upon-Deara, Yorkshire, timber-merchant.—J. WALTHAM, Manchester, drysalter.—E. M. HADAWAY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer.

June 22nd.—W. F. BLACKBURN, Motcombe-street, Belgrave-square, bookseller.—J. A. THOMAS, Thavies Inn, Holborn, flour-merchant.—W. RICHARDSON, Lombard-street, merchant.—G. RUTLAND, Falcon-square, straw-bonnet manufacturer.—C. L. KELLY, Artillery-place, Woolwich.—J. CLARIDGE, Bristol, jeweller.—J. F. J. F. O'LEAND, and A. REEVES, Taunton, scriveners.

June 25th.—G. C. GREEN, Bread-street-hill, paper-maker.—W. R. CARTEE, Ingram-court, wine-merchant.—R. CROSS, Southampton, watchmaker.—S. EARDLEY, Tinstall, joiner.—S. and G. CURSON, Exeter, booksellers.—S. BRICKNELL, jun., Exmouth, master-mariner.—J. WILTON, Sheffield, linen-draper.—W. JONES, Conway, Carnarvonshire.—S. BECKLEY and G. SHORTIDGE, Macclesfield, millers.—R. HALEGO, Sunderland, provision-merchant.—T. MATTHEWSON, Hartlepool, merchant.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

June 4th.—D. F. LUCKIE, Fenchurch-street, merchant.

June 8th.—J. ABSELT, Cambridge-place, Hackney-road, upholsterer.

June 22nd.—T. WENMAN, now or late of Birmingham, merchant.

June 25th.—J. O. SURTEES, Wigmore-street, printseller.

MONEY MARKET.

Consols at and above par, with no prospect of a fall, a reduction in the interest of French treasury bonds, and a sudden and inexplicable liking for Austrian securities by English, but chiefly by French speculators and capitalists, are the only

events that have attracted much attention in the money markets since our last report.

Shares of all sorts keep pace with government securities in value.

STOCKS	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	101½	100½	101½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	101½	99½	101½
Three and a quarter per Cents . .	104½	101½	104½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 . . .	6½	6½	6½
Bank Stock, 7 per cent.	224½	224½	224½
Exchequer Bills, £1000	80	68	72
India Bonds, under £1000 . . .	92	84	88

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Belgian 4½ per cent., 93½	Peruvian 6 per cent., 66½ def.
Brazilian 5 per cent., 99½	Portuguese 4 per cent., 38
Chilian 6 per cent., 104½	Russian 4½ per cent., 117½
Danish 5 per cent., 105½	Sardinian, 94½
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 93	Spanish new 3 per cent.,
Mexican 3 per cent., 27	act., 49½.

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	107½	105	107
all	Blackwall	8½	8½	8½
St. 100	Caledonian	44	18½	43½
20	Eastern Counties	10½	9½	10½
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow . .	65	31½	65
" 100	Great Northern	92	20½	90½
" 100	Great Western	96½	91½	95½
" 100	Lancashire and Yorkshire . .	80½	71½	79½
" 100	Midland	73	67½	72½
" 100	North British	35½	7½	34½
" 100	North-Western	124½	122	128
" 100	South-Eastern	73½	20½	72½
" 100	York, Newc., and Berwick . .	74	17½	73½
" 100	York and North Midland . .	51	23½	51

* These figures intimate the lowest price per share before the consolidation of shares into stock.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Pologne and Aniens, 11½	Paris and Orleans, 49
Dutch Rhish, 5½ dis.	Paris and Rouen, 31½
East Indian, 2½	Paris and Strasbourg, 23
Namur and Liege, 6½	Rouen and Havre, 12½
Northern of France, 24½	Tours and Nantes, 12½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 31s. to 50s.; Oats, 19s. to 22s.; Rye, 28s. to 32s.; Beans, 31s. to 35s.; Peas, 27s. to 36s.; Flour per sack, 20s. to 28s.; American, per barrel of 196 lb., 20s. to 38s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., Irish, 50s. to 75s.	Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 2d. to 5s.
Beef, per tierce, prime mess, 70s. to 110s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 60s.; Irish, 48s. to 64s.; Westphalia, 46s. to 52s.
Butter, per cwt.—Carlton, 1st, 68s. to 70s.; Waterford, 1st, 64s. to 68s.; Dutch Friesland, 66s. to 70s.; Linerick, 1st, 62s. to 66s.	Mutton, per 8 lb., 3s. to 4s.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 41s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 38s. to 60s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 28s. to 35s.; American, 30s. to 40s.	Pork, per 8 lb., 2s. 10d. to 3s. 8d.; American, new, per barrel, 85s. to 92s.
	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Ware, 45s. to 76s.; Kent and Essex Midding, 24s. to 26s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. in bond. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 31s. to 43s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 28s.	Sago, per cwt. in bond.—Pearl, 16s. to 20s.
Coffee, per cwt. in bond.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 41s. 6d. to 73s.; Mocha, 50s. to 94s.; St. Domingo, 38s. to 41s.; Sumatra, 38s. to 41s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica, 30s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 26s. 6d. to 46s. 6d.; Brazil, 29s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal mid. to fine white, 8s. 0d. to 11s. 6d.; Madras, 7s. 6d. to 9s.	Tea, per lb. in bond.—Ord. Congou, 7½d. to 1s. 6d.; Souchong, com. to fine, 8d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine 1½ son, 1s. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s.

Candles, per 12 lb., 4s. 4d.

Coals, per ton, 16s.

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 31l. to 35l.	Cod, 33l. 15s. to 34l.
Sperm, 87l. to 88l. 10s.	Olive, Gallipoli, 45l. 10s. to 46l.
	Linseed, 28l.

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.]

FROM THE 29TH JUNE TO THE 28TH JULY.

[PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

We are all Free-traders now, said Mr. Cobden on the hustings of the West Riding.—"I think it my duty," said the President of the Board of Trade to the electors of the county of Oxford, "to tell my agricultural friends in different parts of the county that there is no chance of a change; that there is no intention on the part of any man to propose that Parliament shall restore any laws which the voice of the country has completely rejected."—"Gentlemen," said the son and heir of Lord Derby, at Lynn, "the question of Protection is set at rest; and I am glad of it!"—"Why," exclaimed Mr. Disraeli, at his harmonious election dinner in Bucks, "no one can suppose that the present Administration has any intention, or ever had any intention, of taxing the food of the people, or of bringing back the laws repealed in 1846!" Mr. Cobden, then, would appear to have some reason for saying, with a victorious leader's half-mournful retrospect over laurels finally gathered, and battles become things of the past, *We are all Free-traders now!*

Let him be quite sure, nevertheless, that he does not reckon without his host, and that he may not find himself even yet face to face with an adverse one. It does not follow of necessity that the rank and file disperse because the generals lay down their arms. Corporals in such extremity have been known to become generals; and threatening intimations of that kind are already "looming" pretty close to Lord Derby's elbow.

Let us give a few examples. First, there is Lord Derby's own Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr. Christopher, who does not scruple to tell his constituents of Lincolnshire ("that broad Lincolnshire which Protection created!") as Mr. Disraeli remarks in his *Biography of Bentinck*, that he believes it to be actually Lord Derby's intention to restore Protection; and that it is solely in consequence of that belief he consents to remain a member of the Derby Administration. Then there is Lord Derby's own Solicitor-general, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, who tells the farmers of East Suffolk that the effect of Corn Law Repeal has been to render it impossible for the cultivator of the soil to carry on with effect the fearful competition to which he is exposed. "When I come to the repeal of the Corn Laws," says Sir Fitzroy, "it is there that I protest, it is there that I stop, it is there that I deny any substantial good, and affirm that what followed was unmitigated evil." However, as the learned Solicitor was a member of the Administration which proposed the repeal, and as he did not "protest" on that occasion, and did "stop" (to vote with Sir Robert Peel, and continue in receipt of his salary), perhaps Lord Derby on the present occasion, notwithstanding Sir Fitzroy's eagerness to "protest," may yet find his objections to "stop" not altogether insuperable. But then there is also the Premier's own Home Secretary, who, though not a man of jokes, is understood to be a man of conscience,—more difficult to deal with; and who, in lately talking to his friends at his snug little retreat

of Midhurst, delivered quite a serious homily against those supposed blessings of Free Trade on which his colleague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had so brilliantly expatiated only a couple of months before. Mr. Walpole here deliberately stated his conviction that Free Trade had increased the number of criminals, though the return of his own office lay at his elbow to contradict him; and as gravely lamented that it had also increased pauperism, though his colleague of the Poor Law Board, Sir John Trollope, had a day or two before declared quite the contrary, on the hustings at South Lincolnshire. But then this very Sir John, when Lord Burghley declared a few minutes afterwards on the same hustings, that the more he looked at the working of Free Trade principles the more he felt confirmed in his original view that they must lead to universal ruin,—calmly listened, notwithstanding all his better experience at the Poor Law Board, with such small discomposure, or disposition to contradict, that he will probably be found equally tolerant of the flat contradiction of the Home Secretary. There is likewise Lord Derby's own First Commissioner of Works, Lord John Manners, who announces in his poetical way at Colchester that he is the same under the scorching sun of 1852 that he was under the bleak winds of 1847;—and there is the brother of that cabinet minister, Lord George, who does his best to persuade the poor electors of Cambridgeshire that heavy import duties only affect the rich, and that cheapness is an injury and not a benefit to him whose only capital is labour;—and there is the same cabinet minister's elder brother, Lord Granby, who rallies the drooping energies of North Leicestershire farmers with a bold challenge to all that have been threatening to abandon Protection, "*Do it if you dare!*"—and there is finally the brother of the deceased hero of Protection, Lord Henry Bentinck, who not only preaches in North Nottinghamshire a gospel against Free Trade, but avers that any other teaching is that of heretics and infidels, and invokes his fellow-countrymen to combine as one man with Lord Derby against the progress of those atrociously democratic sentiments "which had been unfurled by Sir James Graham at Carlisle, shaken in the face of Lord Derby by the Duke of Newcastle in the House of Lords, acknowledged by Mr. Bright on behalf of the Manchester school, and subscribed to by Archbishop Cullen on the part of the Irish brigade."

The nobleman who thus placed Sir James Graham, the Duke of Newcastle, Mr. Bright, and Dr. Cullen, at the head of the subverters of social order in the three kingdoms, is the same who, six years ago, charged Sir Robert Peel with having abolished the corn laws simply for the purpose of increasing his own private fortune. The reader will therefore not be surprised at his latest extravagance. But it has been a peculiarity of this General Election, hardly less striking than the impossibility of conjecturing its effect on public questions, that it has revived a habit of

unscrupulous speech in the organs and advocates of exclusive opinions which had more or less lain dormant since the Reform Bill. Thus Lord Derby's whipper-in and Secretary-at-War, Mr. Beresford, tells the multitude of non-electors who crowded round the hustings in North Essex, that from his heart he despises them as the *wildest rabble* he ever saw. Thus Lord Derby's Attorney-general, when a poor man interrupts him at Stamford with a cry for a bigger loaf than the Marquis of Exeter is disposed to let his independent members vote for, wishes that the loaf in question were *sticking in the throat* of the poor man who clamoured for it. Thus, in the language of a Derbyite organ, Sir James Graham is a *traitor*, and the people who elected him in Carlisle a *pack of rascally debtors* from all parts of the kingdom. Thus, in the same choice phraseology, the whole mass of Mr. Bernal Osborne's supporters in Middlesex are *Jews, radicals, socialists, chartists, blockheads*—everything but Englishmen. Even Mr. Disraeli catches the infection; and a parliamentary opposition led by such men as Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Cobden, suggests no politer simile to the quondam radical protégé of Mr. Hume in the days of the Reform Bill, than that of a snail developing its horns and emerging "*in the slime of sedition!*"

And if Mr. Beresford set the example of such foul speech at this General Election, he is also thus early marked out by very strong suspicion as its most active leader in another department of dirty work, for which it promises to be not less worthy of note and remembrance. "A good and safe man, with judgment and quickness, is wanted immediately at Derby," are the apparently innocent words signed "W. B.," and addressed to one Mr. Frail of Shrewsbury (pre-eminently *frail* by nature as well as name, if Sir James Graham be a credible witness), which, found upon the person of a mysterious possessor of small bags of gold in a garret above a wash-house at the County Tavern in Derby, turned out to be instructions for the good, safe, judicious, and quick corruption and bribery of the electors for the city of Derby, in the handwriting of Lord Derby's Secretary at War. To be sure it is suggested by the Ministerial print, that what "W. B." wrote for was nothing more than "an adroit poll-clerk;" that he wrote for an adroit poll-clerk to the adroitest proficient in bribery throughout the three kingdoms; and that all the rest is "a foully concocted fraud, contrived to ruin an innocent man, and through him to damage the Earl of Derby's government;"—nor is it at all unlikely, since the magistrates have bailed the mysterious man of the garret and sovereigns, that his flight and forfeiture of bail may at no great cost to the suspected prevent pursuit of the inquiry. But on the other hand the alleged "W. B." himself protests he *will* have the inquiry pursued, and that there shall be exposed "bare and broad to the public view as gross a case of conspiracy, combined falsehood, and vile subornation as ever was brought before a committee of the House of Commons." This was at a dinner in celebration of his election; where, however, he carefully avoided further committing himself to the W. B. letter either by confession or denial, though he had no such scruple in falling foul of the *Morning Chronicle*, whose editor he said he knew, and had the pleasure of sitting occasionally on the same sofa with him, in the same club. The whipper-in sitting on the same sofa with the editor suggests certainly sad reflections. "Such," exclaims Mr. Beresford, pathetically, "such is the *state of society!* We are subjected to the intrusion of those who make use of all our intimate associations, *who come to the same club as ourselves*, and who write letters and leading articles impugning our conduct and blackening our characters at the very same table at which we ourselves are

engaged in our *honest avocations.*" That writing leaders is not an honest avocation it is here very obviously Mr. Beresford's meaning to assert, and the editor of the *Morning Chronicle* as obviously thinks it equally savouring of a dishonest avocation to belong to the Carlton Club, for with unusual energy he denies the imputation, and flatly contradicts Mr. Beresford. *Non nostrum tantas, &c.* But as notice has been taken of Mr. Beresford's contempt for the non-electoral "rabble," it is fair to add what transpired on this subject at that same dinner in North Essex. The "rabble," it would seem, have an old habit of remembering vile words applied to themselves, for when Mr. Beresford was passing to the dinner, they hooted him, and one of their number even pelted him. This, however, was a circumstance they had soon reason particularly to lament over, for it turned out that the object of their wrath had actually come to the determination, if well treated on that occasion, that he would not insult them again! This great opportunity therefore was lost. Here are his very words: "I did not consider, after our easy victory and triumphant return, that it would be noble or proper to trample on those we have beaten." A genuinely magnanimous state of mind, all will admit. "I came here," pursued Mr. Beresford, "to throw myself on the kindness even of the very lowest classes." And what was his reward for that frame of mind? As a Christian he does not venture to characterise it. He leaves it to others. "Whether those intentions have been properly met by the lowest classes I leave those present to judge." There could of course (none of the "lowest" or the "very lowest classes" being present) be only one answer; and nothing could equal the enthusiasm of that North Essex dinner party, when their ill-used yet forbearing friend, galled as he might well have been by these additional provocations, yet nobly quitted the subject by throwing out a frank proposal for an amnesty. "*I shall not henceforth recur to any ugly terms if they will only let me alone.*"

But whether or not Mr. Beresford is to be "let alone," and whether or not "W. B." receive his deserts, there can be no mistaking the sounds of eager preparation already audible in Palace-yard and its purlieus. The sickles of the lawyers are getting ready for a rich harvest of petitions. Details of cases unexampled in the annals of intimidation and corruption are thus early and freely canvassed. The late Home Secretary, no reckless accuser, made significant allusion on the hustings of North Northumberland to the gross inducements exerted against him. A cry, as from people under torture, has been heard from every borough in the kingdom accessible in any way to Government control. The Chaudos-clause has proved itself all powerful in the counties. The act for the punishment of bribery has been everywhere treated as waste paper. Every exertion has been made, every agency employed, every fair or foul expedient exhausted. And with what result? It is generally admitted that the change effected in the state of parties cannot reach to more than eight or ten additional Derbyite votes, counting sixteen or twenty in division. Mr. Beresford himself, with a doubtful forecast of his first "whip," is fain to admit that "we are not so flourishing in every exact particular as we could wish." The liberals have in truth a clear majority over the ministerialists of about forty, but between the two there is a floating balance of about six and thirty Peelites, who may upon occasion depress that majority to four, or raise it to seventy-six. More considerable than the changes in numbers, however, are the changes in men. Violent and extreme opinions are more abundantly represented. The house has lost some of its extravagant bores, but also not a few of its moderate and reasonable members. Mr. Macaulay returns to the delight of all, and Mr.

George Thompson goes without the regret of any; but these are exceptions among changes which do not generally represent a conclusion half so satisfactory. As to the result in public affairs, much must necessarily depend upon where the floating members referred to may choose to take their seats. But as Lord Palmerston defined dirt the other day to be nothing more than a thing in a wrong place, it is hardly to be expected, of him at least, that he will do such unhandsome credit to his reputation as to place himself anywhere but in a right place. Yet if even he and all the doubtfuls were to occupy the ministerial benches, the effect could only be to precipitate another dissolution. Mr. Hume has already predicted that the parliament now returned cannot, in any case, hold long together; and the veteran "father of the house" is probably right.

Amid all these uncertainties and changes, present or imminent, one thing only can be pronounced thoroughly safe. Free Trade is unassailable. If its watchwords had not floated on even the banners of the ministerial candidates at one half of the recent elections, Lord Derby would have found himself with not a tithe of his former supporters. The triumph of opinion is at last complete. Mr. Disraeli has taken warning in time, and no longer talks of even relief from local burdens. Local burdens have gone the way of protection. The remedy now is to be a general revision of taxation; and whatever may be the character of its details, supposing Mr. Disraeli permitted to bring them forward, they will at least be little likely to reconcile the opposite and antagonistic benches before which he will have to rise and expound them. There is no financial mystery unexplored or unrevealed that can bring about such a consummation. If the opposition benches shout with delight, not a few of the ministerial benches must of necessity groan in disgust. There is nothing for it, therefore, but that the grand Disraeli nostrum should turn out a quackery and be scouted off the stage, or be accepted to the accompaniment of precisely such a scene as that which, on the 25th of June, 1846, destroyed Peel's party and established Peel's fame. Substantially, then, Mr. Cobden is right, and *we are all Free-traders now*. Nor could the time which has witnessed this change show any contemporaneous incident more nobly characteristic and fitting than the inauguration of the first statue which has been raised to Sir Robert Peel. As the last returns of the election of 1852 were coming in, there rose the first marble memorial of the great statesman to whose services and sacrifices it is destined to yield the last reluctant but irreversible testimony. The men who most bitterly reviled him will soon be heard again proclaiming from their places what the blessings of his policy have been, and on his statue there may then be inscribed that last-spoken line of "the plain and unadorned eloquence of Richard Cobden"—

"WE ARE ALL FREE-TRADERS NOW."

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON Wednesday, June 30, Lord LYNCHBURGH congratulated Lord Derby on the beneficial results of his resistance to the clamorous demands made upon him to dissolve the moment they succeeded to office. The law reform bills, the New Zealand bill, and other important measures would have been delayed, and probably lost, but for the firmness ministers had displayed. The same resolution had enabled parliament to get through the private business of the session, thus saving the parties interested the enormous expense of renewing their bills next year, and to leave the judicial business in such a satisfactory state that, at the prorogation, scarcely an appeal would be left undecided. He believed that more business bills had passed since

Lord Derby's accession to office than in any previous session of the present parliament.—Lord BROUGHAM contended that the merit of the law reform was due to the commission appointed by the late government, and, to some extent, to the late government itself. The present Lord Chancellor and Lord Derby were, however, deserving of great praise for taking them up and carrying them through.—The Earl of DERBY, in thanking Lord Lynchburgh for the compliment he had paid him, acknowledged, that what he had been able to accomplish was due, in a great degree, to the absence of party spirit—the forbearance and co-operation of the majority of parliament. The only credit ministers could claim was for resisting the importunate demands for a dissolution made upon them as soon as they took their official seats, and for pressing only such measures as were admitted by both sides to be for the public benefit.—Earl GREY admitted that many important measures had been passed during the session; but that was to be attributed to the fact that they were the measures of the majority, and not, properly speaking, those of the ministry, who, while out of office, had opposed some of them.

On Thursday the 1st of July, the Queen in person *Prorogued the Parliament* with the usual forms. The Royal speech was as follows:—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I am induced, by considerations of public policy, to release you at an earlier period than usual from your Legislative duties. The zeal and diligence, however, with which you have applied yourselves to your Parliamentary labours, have enabled me, in this comparatively short Session, to give my assent to many measures of high importance, and, I trust, of great and permanent advantage.

"I receive from all Foreign Powers assurances that they are animated by the most friendly dispositions towards this country; and I entertain a confident hope, that the amicable relations happily subsisting between the principal European States may be so firmly established as, under Divine Providence, to secure to the world a long continuance of the blessings of peace. To this great end my attention will be unremittingly directed.

"I rejoice that the final settlement of the affairs of Holstein and Schleswig, by the general concurrence of the Powers chiefly interested, has removed one cause of recent difference and future anxiety.

"The amicable termination of the discussions which have taken place between the Sublime Porte and the Pacha of Egypt afford a guarantee for the tranquility of the East and an encouragement to the extension of commercial enterprise.

"The refusal, on the part of the King of Ava, of redress justly demanded for insults and injuries offered to my subjects at Rangoon, has necessarily led to an interruption of friendly relations with that Sovereign. The promptitude and vigour with which the Governor-General of India has taken the measures thus rendered unavoidable, have merited my entire approbation; and I am confident that you will participate in the satisfaction with which I have observed the conduct of all the naval and military forces, European and Indian, by whose valour and discipline the important captures of Rangoon and Martaban have been accomplished, and in the hope which I entertain that these signal successes may lead to an early and honourable peace.

"Treaties have been concluded by my naval commanders with the King of Dahomey, and all the African Chiefs whose rule extends along the Bight of Benin, for the total abolition of the slave trade, which is at present wholly suppressed upon that coast.

"I have had great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measure which you have wisely adopted for the better organisation of the militia—a constitutional force which, being limited to purposes of internal defence, can afford no just ground of jealousy to neighbouring Powers; but which, in the event of any sudden and unforeseen disturbance of my foreign relations, would at all times contribute essentially to the protection and security of my dominions.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"I thank you for the liberal provision which you

have made for the exigencies of the public service. The expenditure which you have authorised shall be applied with a due regard to their economy and efficiency.

"The recent discoveries of extensive gold fields have produced, in the Australian colonies, a temporary disturbance of society, requiring prompt attention. I have taken such steps as appeared to me most urgently necessary for the mitigation of this serious evil. I shall continue anxiously to watch the important results which must follow from these discoveries. I have willingly concurred with you in an Act, which, by rendering available to the service of those colonies the portion arising within them of the hereditary revenue placed at the disposal of Parliament on my accession to the Throne, may enable them to meet their necessarily increased expenditure.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN.

"I have gladly assented to the important Bills which you have passed for effecting Reforms long and anxiously desired, in the practice and proceedings of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity, and generally for improving the Administration of Justice. Every measure which simplifies the forms, and diminishes the delay and expense of legal proceedings, without introducing uncertainty of decision, impairing the authority of the Courts, or lowering the high standard of the Judicial Bench, is a valuable boon conferred upon the community at large.

"I hope that the measures which you have adopted for promoting Extramural Interment of the Dead, and for improving the Supply of Water, may be found effectual for the remedy of evils, the existence of which has long been a reproach to this great metropolis, and may conduce to the health and comfort of its inhabitants.

"The extension of popular rights and legislative powers to my subjects resident in the colonies, is always to me an object of deep interest; and I trust that the representative institutions which, in concert with you, I have sanctioned for New Zealand, may promote the welfare and contentment of the population of that distant, but most interesting colony, and confirm their loyalty and attachment to my crown.

"It is my intention without delay to dissolve this present parliament; and it is my earnest prayer that, in the exercise of the high functions which, according to our free constitution, will devolve upon the several constituencies, they may be directed by an all-wise Providence to the selection of representatives whose wisdom and patriotism may aid me in my unceasing endeavours to sustain the honour and dignity of my Crown; to uphold the Protestant institutions of the country, and the civil and religious liberty which is their natural result; to extend and improve the national education; to develop and encourage industry, art, and science; and to elevate the moral and social condition, and thereby promote the welfare and happiness of my people."

The Lord Chancellor then, by Her Majesty's command, prorogued Parliament till Friday the 20th day of August.

A proclamation of the same date appeared in the London Gazette, whereby Her Majesty Dissolved the Parliament, and ordered writs to be issued for calling a new Parliament of the United Kingdom; which writs are to be returnable on Friday the 20th day of August next.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Tuesday, June 29, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that the government had received from Sir Henry Bulwer an announcement that the *Misunderstanding between this Country and Tuscany arising from Mr. Mather's case* had been entirely removed. There had been a most ample acknowledgment of regret on the part of the Tuscan government, and the very best sentiments now subsisted between her Majesty's government and the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

Sir H. VERNEY, in the absence of Mr. Anstey, moved a resolution to the effect that, in the case of the Rev. Messrs. Wingate, Smith, and Edward, arbitrarily expelled from the Austrian dominions, under circumstances involving much sacrifice of property, the rights

of British subjects resident in foreign countries, who were entitled to her Majesty's protection, were violated, and, no redress having been hitherto obtained, the case called for prompt and earnest measures on the part of her Majesty's government.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER defended the present government. When they came into office, they found that, in a despatch from Lord Granville, in February last, the Earl of Westmoreland, our minister at Vienna, was instructed to leave it to the good feeling of the Austrian government to decide whether compensation should be afforded to Messrs. Wingate and Smith for their bodily sufferings and losses. In March Lord Malmesbury had done no more, and could do no more, than repeat the representation very properly made by Lord Granville. The case of Mr. Edward was, that he had been expelled from Lemberg with great harshness and cruelty. His case had been represented as the most tyrannical of all. But Count Buol had stated to Lord Westmoreland that, although Mr. Edward had (owing to some indiscretions) been ordered to quit Lemberg on the 17th of December, the order had been rescinded on the 23rd; and it appeared that he left Lemberg of his own accord, and went to Vienna, where he saw Lord Westmoreland, who represented his case to Prince Schwartzenberg; that he returned to Lemberg, being recommended to remain quiet until there was a decision upon his case, which was decided in February; but long before that Mr. Edward had voluntarily left Lemberg for Breslau, and up to this hour he had received no order to quit the Austrian dominions. With respect to the sacrifice of property suffered by Messrs. Wingate and Smith, the demand made by them in the time of Lord Granville for compensation for the losses incurred in their expulsion from Pesth amounted to 472*l.*; but an investigation made into this demand had shown that it was exaggerated, and that it was doubtful whether there was any ground of claim whatever. Lord Stanley, by direction of Lord Malmesbury, had communicated the facts to Messrs. Wingate and Smith, with a request that they would state what they had to say in answer to them; and to this communication no reply had been received. Lord PALMERSTON said it was evident, from the papers before the house, that the discussions to which they related were not yet completely brought to a close. It did not appear, in the first place, what was the amount of loss sustained by Messrs. Wingate and Smith. Then Count Buol had offered to pay the expense incurred by the return of the mission, and to that offer no reply had been received. The house, therefore, could not agree to a resolution which would affirm what it was not in a condition to affirm, and he recommended that the resolution should be withdrawn, as, on the other hand, the house could not negative assertions contained in it which were indisputably true. He did not regret that this subject had been brought before the house, because it was of the utmost importance that foreign governments should know that, if they acted arbitrarily or unjustly towards British subjects, there existed in that house a determination to discuss the matter, and to call upon the government of the day, if necessary, to demand redress. He lamented the whole course which had been pursued by the government in this case, though he did not blame the present ministers, who had found the matter launched in a wrong groove. Public benefit arose from the public discussion of these subjects, and the papers showed that the government had become more energetic in proportion as the case of these unfortunate men had been the subject of discussion in this country. He thought Messrs. Wingate and Smith had been most cruelly and tyrannically treated, having been ordered to quit the country at the shortest notice, and at the most inclement season of the year, without any cause assigned. It had been since alleged that they had violated an Austrian law; but the papers did not state what that law was, and the British government had a right to have a distinct statement of what that law was, and how it had been infringed. He regretted to see the despatch of Lord Granville of the 17th February, which, under the circumstances (Lord Palmerston significantly remarked), must be regarded as the despatch, not of the Secretary of State, but of the cabinet. A despatch more abject in its terms and substance, he added, it had never

been his lot to read; abstaining from asking redress, and leaving it to the good feeling of the Austrian government whether any compensation should be made. He did not blame the present government for taking up the case as it had been left by their predecessors, and they had shown more vigour. The act, in his opinion, had been founded not upon any law, or upon religious intolerance, but upon political considerations, in resentment towards the English government and nation for the part they had taken in the affairs of the continent—a sentiment arising out of a mistaken view of the interests of Austria herself. The policy of the British cabinet at that period, he observed, would have contributed to the peace of Europe and to the happiness of the people of Italy, while it would not have lowered Austria in the scale of nations if her possessions had been limited to the north of the Alps.—After some observations by Mr. Plowden and Mr. Hume, Sir H. Verney withdrew the motion.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—June 28.—Militia Bill passed through Committee.—Patent Law Amendment Bill, Amendments of the Commons agreed to.—New Zealand Government Bill.—Sultors in Chancery Bill, and Encumbered Estates (Ireland) Bill, read a third time and passed.

30th.—Royal Assent given to a number of Bills.—Prorogation of Parliament by Her Majesty.

House of Commons.—June 29.—Expulsion of Scotch Missionaries from Austria.—Mr. Anstey's Resolution moved by Sir H. Verney, and withdrawn.

30th.—Improvement of Jurisdiction in Equity Bill, an Amendment of the Lords rejected.

MEMBERS RETURNED TO SERVE IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

	Liberals.	Ministerialists.
Aberdeen	G. Thompson	
Aberdeenshire .....	...	Hon. Adam Gordon
Abingdon	General Caulfield	
Andover .....	...	H. B. Coles
Anglesey	Sir R. Bulkeley	Alderman Cubitt
Antrim .....	...	— Macartney
Argyllshire .....	...	Sir A. J. Campbell
Argyll (borough) .....	...	Ross S. Moore
Armagh (county)	Colonel Caulfield	Sir W. Verner
Arundel	Lord E. Howard	...
Ashburton	G. Moffat	...
Ashton-under-Lyne	C. Hindley	...
Athlone	W. Keogh	...
Aylesbury	Dr. Lazard	...
...	R. Bethell	...
Ayr	J. Crawford	...
Ayrshire .....	...	Col. Sir D. H. Blair
Banbury	H. W. Fancrad	...
Bandon .....	...	Lord Bernard
Banffshire	J. Duff	...
Barnstaple .....	...	Sir W. Frazer
...	...	R. Brenbridge
Bath	Captain Seobell	...
...	T. Plinn	...
Beaumaris	Lord G. Paget	H. Stuart
Bedford	S. Whitbread, jun.	Colonel Gilpin
Bedfordshire	F. C. H. Russell	J. Davison
Belfast .....	...	H. McCairns
...	...	G. H. Vansittart
Berkshire .....	...	Robert Palmer
...	...	Viscount Barrington
Berwick	M. Forster	...
...	J. Stapleton	...
Berwickshire .....	...	Hon. F. Scott
Beverley	Hon. F. Lawley	...
...	W. Wells	...
Bewdley	Sir T. Winnington	...
Birmingham	W. Scholefield	...
...	G. F. Muntz	...
Blackburn	W. Eccles	...
...	J. Pilkington	...
Bodmin	C. G. Sawle	Dr. Mitchell
Bolton	T. Barnes	...
...	J. Crook	...
Boston	G. H. Heathcote	B. B. Cabell
Bradford	R. Milligan	H. Wickham
Brecon .....	...	C. R. Morgan
Breconsire .....	...	Sir J. Bailey
Bridgegate	Col. Tynte	B. S. Follett
Brighthelm .....	...	Henry Whitmore
...	...	Sir R. Pigot
Bridport	T. A. Mitchell	
...	— Murrough	
Brighton	Sir G. Peckell	
...	Lord A. Hervey	
Bristol	F. H. Berkeley	
...	W. H. G. Langton	
Buckingham .....	...
Buckinghamshire	Hon. C. C. Cavendish	
Bury	F. Peel	
Bury St. Edmunds	Earl Jermyn	
Buteshire .....	...
Caithness	G. Traill	
Caine	Earl of Shelburne	
Cambridge (boro.) .....	...	K. Macaulay
...	...	J. H. Astell
Cambridgeshire .....	...	Hon. E. T. Yorke
...	...	Lord G. Manniers
...	...	E. Bull
...	...	H. Goulburn
...	...	L. T. Wigram
...	...	H. P. Gipps
...	...	Hon. B. Johnstone
Canterbury .....	...
Cardiff	Walter Coffin	
Cardigan	P. Loveden	
Cardiganshire .....	...	Colonel Powell
Carlisle	Sir J. Graham	
...	J. Ferguson	
Carlisle (borough)	J. Sadleir	
Carlow (county)	— Hall	Col. Bluen
Carmarthen	D. Morris	
Carmarthenshire .....	...	D. Jones
...	...	D. A. S. Davies
Carnarvon .....	...	W. B. Hughes
Carnarvonshire .....	...	Colonel D. Pennant
Carriekfergus .....	...	Hon. W. H. S. Cotton
Cashel	Sir T. O'Brien	
Cavan	Sir J. Young	Hon. J. P. Maxwell
Chatham .....	...	Sir F. Smith
Cheltenham	Hon. Craven Berkeley	
Cheshire, North .....	...	W. T. Egerton
...	...	G. C. Leigh
Cheshire, South .....	...	Sir P. de M. G. Egerton
...	...	J. Tollennache
Chester	Earl Grosvenor	
...	Hon. W. O. Stanley	
Chichester	J. A. Smith	Lord H. Lennox
Chippingham .....	...	J. Neeld
...	...	Captain Boldero
Christchurch .....	...	Captain Walcott
...	...	R.N.
Cirencester	Hon. A. G. J. Ponsonby	J. R. Mullings
...	...	J. Johnstone
Clackmannanshire .....	...
Clare (county)	Sir J. F. Fitzgerald	
...	C. O'Brien	
Clitheroe	M. Wilson	
Clonmel	Hon. C. J. Lawless	
Cockermouth	H. Aglionby	General Wyndham
Colchester .....	...	W. W. Hawkins
...	...	Lord J. Manniers
...	...	Lord Naas
Coleraine .....	...
Cork (city)	Serjeant Murphy	
...	W. Egan	
Cork (county)	V. Scully	
...	E. B. Roche	
Cornwall, East	T. J. A. Robartes	N. Kendall
Cornwall, West	E. W. W. Pendarves	
...	Sir C. Lemon	
Coventry	Rt. Hon. E. Ellice	
...	C. Geach	
Cricklade .....	...	J. Neeld
...	...	A. Goddard
Cumberland, East	Hon. C. Howard	
...	Wm. Marshall	
Cumberland, West .....	...	Captain Lowther
...	...	S. Irton
Dartmouth .....	...	Sir T. Herbert
Denbigh .....	...	F. R. West
Denbighshire	Col. M. Biddulph	Sir W. W. Wynn
Derby	M. T. Bass	T. B. Horsfall
Derbyshire, North	Hon. G. H. Cavendish	
...	W. Evans	
Derbyshire, South .....	...	C. R. Coiville
...	...	William Mundy
Devizes .....	...	G. W. Hennege
...	...	Capt. N. Gladstone
Devonport	Rt. Hon. H. Tufnel	General Sir G. H. F. Berkeley

[illegible]

	Liberals.	Ministerialists.		Liberals.	Ministerialists.
Lyme Regis	W. Pinney		Portsmouth	Sir F. Paring	...
Lymington	J. Hutches	Sir J. R. Carnac	Reading	Viscount Monk	...
Macclesfield	J. Brocklehurst	C. E. Egerton	Preston	Sir G. Strickland	E. T. Parker
Maidstone	J. Whatman	G. Dodd	Queen's County	M. Dunne	Sir C. Coote
Maldon .....	...	T. J. Miller	Radnor	Right Hon. Sir T. F. Lewis	...
...	...	— Du Cane	...	...	...
Mallow	Sir D. Norreys	...	Radnorshire .....	...	Sir J. Walsh
Malmesbury	T. Luce	...	Reading	Francis Pigott	...
Malton	J. E. Denison	...	...	H. S. Keating	...
...	Hon. C. W. Fitzwilliam	...	Reigate .....	...	T. S. Cocks
Manchester	T. M. Gibson	...	Renfrewshire .....	...	Colonel Mure
...	J. Bright	...	Retford, East .....	...	Hon. W. E. Duncombe
Marlborough	Lord E. Bruce	...	...	...	Viscount Galway
Marlow, Great	H. B. Baring	...	Richmond	H. Rich	...
...	...	T. P. Williams	...	M. Wyvill	W. Beckett
Marylebone	Lord D. Stuart	Col. Knox	Ripon .....	...	Hon. E. Lascelles
...	Sir B. Hall	...	...	...	...
Mayo	G. O. Higgins	...	Rochdale	E. Miall	Hon. F. Villiers
...	G. Moore	...	Rochester .....	...	Sir T. H. Maddock
Meath	F. Lucas	...	...	...	...
...	M. Corbally	...	Rosemonon	F. French	...
Merionethshire .....	...	W. W. E. Wynn	...	O. Grace	...
Mertlhy Tydvil	Sir J. J. Gaeet	...	Ross and Cromarty	Sir J. Matheson	...
Middlesex	Lord R. Grosvenor	...	Roxburghshire	Hon. J. E. Eliot	...
...	R. B. Osborne	...	Rutland	Sir G. Heathcote	Hon. G. J. Noel
Midhurst .....	...	Right Hon. S. H. Walpole	Rye	A. Mackinnon	...
...	...	...	St. Andrews & Cupar	Edward Ellice, jun.	...
Monaghan .....	...	C. P. Leslie	St. Ives .....	...	Captain Laffan
...	...	Sir G. Foster	Salford	J. Brotherton	...
Monmouth Boro' .....	...	C. Bailey	Salisbury	W. J. Chaplin	...
Monmouthshire .....	...	O. Morgan	...	G. B. Wall	Lord C. Clinton
...	...	Major Somerset	Sandwich .....	...	J. McGregor
Montgomery .....	...	— Pugh	...	...	...
Montgomeryshire .....	...	Capt. H. Wynn	Scarborough	Earl of Mulgrave	...
Montrose, &c.	J. Hume	...	...	Sir J. V. B. Johnston	...
Morpeth	Hon. Capt. Howard	...	Selkirkshire .....	...	A. E. Lockhart
Newark-on-Trent	G. E. H. Vernon	...	Shaftebury	Hon. W. H. B. Portman	...
...	J. H. M. Sutton	...	Sheffield	J. A. Roebuck	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne	J. B. Blackett	...	...	G. Hadfield	...
...	T. E. Headlam	...	Shorham, New .....	...	Sir C. M. Durrell
Newcastle-under-Lyne	W. Jackson	...	...	...	Lord A. G. Lennox
...	S. Christie	...	Shrewsbury	G. Tomline	E. H. Ballock
Newport	W. Biggs	...	Shropshire, North .....	...	W. O. Gore
...	W. N. Massey	...	...	...	J. W. Dod
New Ross	C. N. Duffy	...	Shropshire, South .....	...	Viscount Newport
Newry	— Kirk	...	...	...	R. H. Clive
Norfolk, East .....	...	E. Woodhouse	Sligo	C. Towleley	Sir R. G. Eooth
...	...	H. N. Burroughes	Sligo (county)	R. Swift	W. Miles
Norfolk, West .....	...	W. Bage	Somersetshire, East .....	...	— Knatchbull
...	...	G. B. Bentinck	...	...	C. A. Moody
Northallerton	W. B. Wrightson	...	Somersetshire, W. .....	...	W. H. G. Langton
Northampton	Right Hon. R. V. Smith	...	...	...	...
...	R. Curie	...	Southampton	Sir A. Cockburn	...
Northamptonshire, North .....	...	T. P. Maunsell	...	B. M. Wilcox	...
...	...	Augustus Stanford	South Shields	R. Ingham	...
Northamptonshire, South .....	...	Capt. H. Vyse	Southwark	Sir W. Molesworth	...
...	...	R. Knightley	...	A. Pellatt	...
Northumberland, N .....	...	Lord Lovaine	Stafford	A. Otway	...
...	...	Lord Ossulston	Staffordshire, North	J. A. Wise	...
Northumberland, S.	W. B. Beaumont	H. G. Liddell	...	...	C. B. Adairley
Norwich	S. M. Peto	...	Staffordshire, South	Hon. G. Anson	S. Child
...	E. Warner	...	Stafford .....	...	Viscount Lewisham
Nottingham	Right Hon. E. Strutt	...	...	...	Right Hon. J. C. Herries
...	J. Walter	...	Stirling, &c.	Sir J. Anderson	Sir F. Thesiger
Notts, North	Lord R. Clinton	...	...	...	W. Forbes
Notts, South .....	...	Lord H. Boninck	Stirlingshire	J. Kershaw	...
...	...	W. H. Barrow	Stockport	J. B. Smith	...
Oldham	J. M. Cobbett	Viscount Newark	...	J. L. Ricardo	...
Oxford (city)	J. H. Langston	J. Duncutt	Stoke-on-Trent	Hon. F. L. Gower	...
...	Sir W. P. Wood	...	...	Lord Merton	...
Oxfordshire	G. G. Harcourt	...	Stroud	G. P. Serape	...
...	...	Right Hon. J. Henley	Suffolk, East .....	...	Sir E. S. Gooch
Oxford University	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone	Sir R. H. Inglis	...	...	Sir F. Kelly
...	A. Hastie	...	Suffolk, West .....	...	P. Bennett, jun.
Paisley .....	...	Sir G. Montgomery	...	...	H. S. Waddington
Pecklesshire .....	...	Sir John Owen	Sunderland	W. D. Seymour	G. Hudson
Pembroke .....	...	Viscount Emlin	...	Hon. P. J. L. King	...
Pembrokeshire .....	...	H. Gwyn	Surrey, East	T. Aleock	...
Penryn & Falmouth .....	...	J. W. Freshfield	...	...	H. Drummond
...	...	— Stirling	Surrey, West .....	...	W. J. Evelyn
Perth	Hon. A. Kinnaird	...	Sussex, East .....	...	A. E. Fuller
Perthshire .....	...	...	...	...	C. H. Frewen
Peterborough	Hon. G. W. Fitzwilliam	...	Sussex, West .....	...	Earl of March
...	Hon. R. Watson	...	...	...	R. Prime
Petersfield .....	...	Sir W. Jolliffe	Sutherlandshire	Marq. of Stafford	...
Plymouth	R. P. Collier	C. Mare	Swansea	J. H. Vivian	...
Pontefract	R. M. Milnes	...	Tamworth	Sir R. Peel	...
...	B. Oliveira	...	...	Captain Townshend	...
Poole	H. D. Seymour	G. W. Franklyn	Taunton	Right Hon. H. L. Beauchere	A. Mills
Portarlington .....	...	Colonel Dunne	...	Hon. G. Byng	...
...	...	...	Tavistock	S. Carter	...

	Liberals.	Ministerialists.		
Tewkesbury	H. Brown	...	Lancashire, North, J. W.	Wakefield, G. Sanders
Thetford	J. Martin	...	Patten	Warrington, G. Greenall
Thirsk	Earl of Euston	Hon. F. Baring	Macclesfield, C. E. Egerton	Wigan, Col. Lindsay
Tipperary	F. Seilly	Sir W. P. Gallwey	Pembroke, Sir J. Owen	Wiltshire, South, W. Wyndham
Tiverton	J. Sadler	...	Ripon, W. Beckett	ham
Totness	Visct. Palmerston	...	Surrey, West, H. Drommond	
Tower Hamlets	J. Heathcote	...		
Truro	Lord Seymour	...		
Tynemouth	T. Mills	...		
Tyrone	C. S. Butler	...		
Wakefield	Sir W. Clay	...		
Wallingford	M. J. O'Connell	...		
Walsall	H. Vivian	J. E. Vivian		
Warham .....	...	H. Taylor		
Warrington	Hon. H. Corry	Lord C. Hamilton		
Warwick .....	...	G. Sanders		
Warwickshire, N. ..	C. Forster	R. Malins		
Warwickshire, S. ...	J. S. W. S. E. Drax	...		
Waterford (city) ...	...	G. Greenall		
Waterford (county) ..	Alderman Meagher	G. Repton		
Wells	R. Keating	E. Greaves		
Westbury	N. M. Power	C. N. Newdegate		
Westmeath	W. G. Hayter	R. Spooner		
Westminster .....	...	Lord Brooke		
Westmoreland	J. Wilson	Lord Guernsey		
Wexford (town) ...	...	...
Wexford (county) ...	J. T. Devereux	R. H. Hutcheson		
Weymouth	P. McMahon	R. C. Tisdale		
Whitby	Colonel Freestun	J. M. Gaskell		
Whitehaven .....	...	Hon. Col. Forester		
Wick, &c.	S. Laing	...		
Wicklow	Viscount Milton	...		
Wigan	R. A. Thicknesse	...		
Wigton	Sir J. M. Taggart	...		
Wiltshire	J. Dalrymple	...		
Wilton	H. a'Court	...		
Wiltshire, North ...	...	W. Long		
Wiltshire, South ...	Rt. Hon. S. Herbert	T. H. Sotheran		
Winchester	J. B. Carter	W. Wyndham		
Windsor	P. Grenfell	Sir J. B. East		
Wolverhampton	Hon. C. P. Villiers	Lord C. Wellesley		
Woodstock	T. Thornley	...		
Worcester .....	...	Marq. of Blandford		
Worcestershire, E. ...	O. Ricardo	Hon. Capt. Keshout		
Worcestershire, W. ...	A. Laslett	General Lygon		
Yarmouth	J. H. Foley	F. W. Knight		
York .....	...	Sir E. Lacon		
Yorksh., E. Riding ...	C. E. Rumbold	J. G. Smyth		
Yorksh., N. Riding ...	W. M. E. Milner	Lord Hotham		
Yorksh., W. Riding ...	...	Hon. A. Duncombe		
Youghal	R. Cobden	O. Duncombe		
	...	E. S. Cayley		
	...	E. B. Denison		
	...	I. Butt		

[The returns of seven members have not been received, but will be given in our next number.]

The New Parliament will consist of:—

English and Welsh city and borough members	333
English University members	4
English and Welsh county members	159
Scotch members	53
Irish members	105
	654

In the above list the following gentlemen are classed amongst the Ministerialists, but they all profess more or less liberal opinions, and would certainly oppose the government on any motion for the reversal of free trade:

Andover, Ald. Cubitt	Devon, North, Sir T. Acland
Bradford, H. Wickham	Dudley, J. Penbow
Bridgnorth, H. Whitmore	Falkirk, J. Baird
Buteshire, J. S. Wortley	Haddingtonshire, Hon. F. Charters
Cambridge University, H. Goulburn	Hastings, J. P. Robertson
Cambridgeshire, Hon. E. D. Pennant	Huntingdon, Col. Peel
	Kerry (county), H. Herbert

Lancashire, North, J. W. Patten
Macclesfield, C. E. Egerton
Pembroke, Sir J. Owen
Ripon, W. Beckett
Surrey, West, H. Drommond

The election of the sixteen representative peers of Scotland took place at Holyrood Palace on the 15th instant. The following peers were elected:—The Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Montrose, the Earl of Home, the Earl of Strathmore, the Earl of Arlre, the Earl of Leven and Melville, the Earl of Selkirk, the Earl of Orkney, the Earl of Seafield, Lord Saltoun, Lord Gray, Lord Sinclair, Lord Elphinstone, Lord Blantyre, Lord Colville of Culross, and Lord Polwarth.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

AT the Dover Quarter-Sessions, on the 25th of June, William Bennett Sothers, alias the Honourable William O'Brien Fitzgerald, was tried for obtaining various sums of money to the extent of £70l. from a gentleman named Payn, a solicitor at Dover, under *Fraudulent Pretences*. The case excited very great interest. The prisoner had the appearance of a foreigner. His wife claimed the title of Lady Emily Fitzgerald, and represented that she was the widow of Count Eltz; that her mother was related to the ninth Duke of Norfolk; that her name was Lady Ann Isabella Howard; and that her father was General William O'Brien Fitzgerald, of the Guards. It was proved at the trial that the prisoner was formerly a member of the Stock Exchange. Some four or five years ago, Mr. Payn the prosecutor was residing with his children at Eyethorne, and while there he became acquainted with the prisoner and his wife. In the course of last August he received a letter from them, stating that both were confined in a prison at Pau, in the South of France, at the base of the Pyrenees; that they had fallen into an awful predicament, from the negligence of their agent, who had failed to remit them 3000*l.*; that they had the misfortune to lose 1800 francs on their journey; and that about 400*l.* would set them right. Mr. Payn proceeded to the Continent, and found them prisoners, as they had described, in the prison of Pau. They stated that "Lady Emily" was the daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir William O'Brien Fitzgerald, formerly of the Guards, &c., and that they were known to the Earl of Carlisle and the Duke of Sutherland. The Sutherland children, she said, visited at her mother's; but, in consequence of her marriage not being sanctioned by her parents, the friendly intercourse with the Sutherland family had fallen off. "Lady Emily" added, that her husband's mother was the Princess Castiglioni. They had been confined in prison more than twelve months, having been denounced as swindlers. Finding they were suffering great misery, Mr. Payn paid 450*l.* for their debts, and 240*l.* as security to the Court of Appeal for their appearance when required. He pleaded for them at the Court of Appeal and obtained their liberty. He then brought them to Dover, supported them, and ultimately lent them 40*l.* to go to the North of England, to see some relations, who would repay him. They went away, and nothing more was heard about them. Their representations about being connected with high families, and their agent, were discovered to be untrue; and in the course of some seven or eight months they were apprehended at Barnard Castle, near Durham. In the prisoner's box was a letter, dated July 1850, from the Earl Powis to "Lady Emily," which had contained 100*l.* sent to their relief. The Earl of Carlisle gave evidence that his family were unacquainted with the prisoner or his wife, and that their representation of being related to the Norfolk family was perfectly false. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, the 29th June, a person named Sill, a solicitor, was tried on two indictments, one for *Felony*, the other for *Misdemeanour*. It was alleged that Sill had extorted bills of exchange from the brothers Broome, to stop the prosecution against them for the "card-cheating case" at Brighton. An application was now made on behalf of the prosecution to postpone the trial, on the ground that it had been understood that the trial was indefinitely postponed by

Lord Campbell, and that therefore indispensable witnesses were not now in court. Lord Campbell denied that he had indefinitely postponed the trial: he had merely declined to fix a day, and had left it to take its course in the trial paper. Ultimately, verdicts of acquittal were taken in both cases, because no evidence could be offered.

At the Thames Police Court, on the 28th June, Mrs. Acock, wife of a timber-merchant at Stepney, was fined 5s. for an *Assault* on Catherine Tiernay, her servant. On the following day, Mr. Acock accused the girl of stealing four gold pins. Mr. Acock asserted that the girl had secreted a little box containing the pins in her clothes-box; the girl's solicitor endeavoured to show that this was a conspiracy to ruin her, to revenge the fine for assault and a threatened summons from the County Court for wages. A policeman was called in to search the prisoner's box; the contents were turned out; when they were nearly all returned, Mr. Acock picked the pin-box off the floor, and accused Catherine Tiernay of stealing it. The policeman gave very unsatisfactory evidence with regard to this box. It was wrapped in a piece of paper, and he first said that Mr. Acock had declared it was a box containing pins "before the paper was removed;" subsequently he retracted this, and said Mr. Acock made the remark "after" the paper was removed. Mrs. Mary Ann Curd stated that Mrs. Acock, after she was fined, exclaimed to the prisoner, "I'll have you before to-morrow! I have not done with you yet; I'll have you up hard and fast!" Mrs. Curd went with the girl for her box. Mrs. Acock was abusive. When she talked of searching the box, the girl said a policeman should be sent for. The box was emptied of its contents, and the things turned over four times; and while they were putting the things in the box, Mrs. Acock stooped down and picked up, or pretended to pick up, something. The witness had emptied the prisoner's box, and shaken it, and turned it upside down, and was certain the red case did not fall out of it. The magistrate decided, with such conflicting evidence before him, to send the case to a jury; but he offered to take bail—one surety for 20l. A gentleman who had heard the investigation, though quite unacquainted with the prisoner, kindly gave bail for the amount.

An investigation into an *Assault* on Storey, a detective policeman, by a number of stockbrokers' clerks was concluded at the Mansion House on the 3rd inst. Storey had tried to force his way into the Stock Exchange to arrest a delinquent; the clerks made a great uproar, hustled him, and prevented him from effecting his object; even an application to the Secretary did not obtain him civil treatment. The answer on the part of the clerks was, that the hustling was only a "lark"; and that Storey had entered unceremoniously, and used gross language. Storey's solicitor offered to abandon the charges if an apology were made; and the clerks consented. Alderman Wire intimated that they were wise in taking advantage of the offer; and he expressed a hope that in future such violent practices would be discontinued at the Stock Exchange.

A *Riot* broke out at Stockport on the evening of Tuesday, the 29th June, between the Irish Catholic and the English Protestant working people. On the previous Sunday the usual annual procession took place of the Roman Catholic scholars connected with the three chapels in Stockport. The procession was headed by the priests, but there were no banners, the priests did not wear canonical vestments; and the school-girls only wore white frocks with little crosses hung round their necks by ribands. Everything passed quietly for the time; but in the course of Monday several fights took place, apparently arising out of disputes about the procession. Nothing serious took place, however, till Tuesday evening, when a number of English and Irish assembled in Hillgate, and began fighting with sticks and other weapons. On learning this, Mr. Sadler, the chief constable, at the head of a small body of police, proceeded to the spot; and, after violent resistance, dispersed the rioters, some of whom were captured and conveyed to the police-station. Comparative peace being restored, information of the state of the town was sent to the magistrates, the mili-

tary were called in, and a number of special constables sworn, by which time a considerable mob had assembled. The Riot Act was immediately read, and the mob speedily dispersed. The civil and military authorities and force then proceeded to Edgeley, where they found the large Catholic chapel completely sacked and gutted, and the priest's house nearly in the same condition. The rioters here had brought the furniture, &c., out of the chapel and the residence, piled it in the road, and set fire to it. The mob had dispersed before their arrival, and they only found groups of persons standing quietly by the heaps of blazing materials. While the authorities were there, a messenger arrived with information, that the mob had proceeded to St. Michael's Roman Catholic chapel in the park; had broken the windows; were destroying the furniture, &c.; and that some of the rioters had attempted to force open a large iron safe, supposed to contain various articles of silver used in the services of the chapel. Some portions of a patera, a pyx-cover, &c., all of silver, were picked up inside the chapel, and Mr. Sadler took possession of them, as well as of various books of prayers which were lying strewn about. The police arrived in time to apprehend several men, many of whom were severely wounded, and from four o'clock in the morning till noon four medical men were more or less engaged in dressing their wounds and hurts. After the police had dispersed the mob in Hillgate, the Irish, in a tolerably compact body, retreated towards Rock Row, the lower end of which opens upon St. Peter's Square. At the corner of Rock Row and the square stands a large house, the residence of Mr. Graham, surgeon, who has in some way incurred the hatred of the Roman Catholics. They assailed this house with volleys of stones and brickbats, smashed most of the lower windows, and the servant-man received a severe wound in the forehead from a stone. In this attack the next house, belonging to Mr. White's factory, also suffered considerable injury in the lower windows. The mob then turned their attack upon the Sunday school connected with St. James's Church, which stands opposite to Mr. Graham's house, on the other side of the square, and they had broken some of the windows in the building, when they were overtaken by the English, who attacked and drove them up Rock Row, and then seem to have proceeded in retaliation to Edgeley; gutted the Roman Catholic chapel and priest's house there; and thence to St. Michael's Catholic chapel, in the park, which they also sacked, as already stated. Here the more serious outrages to property seem to have been stayed, but fights between small bodies of both factions continued for some hours afterwards. Between eleven and twelve o'clock a party of police succeeded in capturing a young Irishman, named Moran, about 24 years of age, who was said to have wounded three or four men with a pitchfork. When apprehended, however, he had received a severe fracture of the skull and other injuries; and, as he was evidently dying, he was removed from the other prisoners, and placed in a room below the Court-house, where he expired about a quarter before two o'clock on Wednesday morning. It was after midnight before the disturbance was quelled. The Stockport Court-house presented a strange scene on Wednesday morning. During the night it had been converted into a prison hospital, and at one end were placed about 108 rudely looking fellows, upwards of sixty of whom were suffering from wounds received in the riot, or in their encounters with the police when taken into custody. One with a dislocated shoulder was yelling under the manipulation of a surgeon, and another was shrieking under the pain of handling a dislocated ankle. Others were writhing, moaning, and bleeding, while the surgeons moved to and fro among them, dressing their wounds. Thirty-three prisoners were identified as having taken part in the riot, and a great number were discharged on their own recognizances to keep the peace, the total number apprehended being 111. The disturbances were renewed on the Wednesday night, notwithstanding the precautions taken to preserve the peace. Several houses in different parts of the town, belonging to Irish Roman Catholics, were attacked, the furniture destroyed, and the inmates beaten unmercifully. It is remarkable that during

these last disturbances, the police were unable to apprehend a single offender. They were sent for in some cases, and arrived in the neighbourhood where the attacks had been made, but too late to get more than an indication of the direction in which the rioters had gone. An investigation into this affair has been entered into at Stockport and not yet terminated.

At the Hertford Assizes, a case of *Breach of Promise of Marriage* was tried on the 13th. The parties were Emma Louisa Oldaker, the daughter of a publican at Harpenden, who was the plaintiff; and the defendant was a farmer, who was said to have considerable expectations, living in the same neighbourhood. It appeared that the defendant had been in the habit of going to the house of the plaintiff's father to "smoke his cigar," and he commenced paying attention to the plaintiff in 1848, and from that period a considerable intimacy sprang up between them, and at length, with the consent of the plaintiff's parents, the wedding-day was fixed for the 15th February, 1851. A few days before the 15th, the defendant sent the following letter to the plaintiff:—"My dear Emma,—I am very sorry I said to you what I did this morning, but I cannot make it convenient to marry now.—Yours truly, GEORGE DAVIS." And a very short time after this he married another young woman. It appeared that on the evening of the same day the letter was sent, the defendant went to the house of the plaintiff's father, when a regular scene took place; and the defendant was represented to have fainted away in the bed-room of the plaintiff, there being a suggestion that he was a little the worse for liquor at the time. In the course of the case it was stated that after the defendant sent the letter referred to, a second letter was sent by him renewing his promise; but this letter was not produced, and there was some evidence to show, that after the original letter, the parents of the plaintiff appeared to consider the match as broken off. On behalf of the defendant, it was contended that the match had been broken off with the consent of both parties, and that the plaintiff, in point of fact, had not sustained any injury, and was not entitled to damages. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

On the same day another *Breach of Promise* case was tried at Lincoln. The plaintiff, Miss Hoff, who is about 40 years of age, keeps a grocer's and draper's shop at Holbeach; and the defendant, Mr. Savage, is a landowner and opulent farmer in the neighbourhood, 55 years of age. Damages were laid at 2,000*l.* As the defendant and the brother of the plaintiff were travelling together, the family having been intimate for years, an acquaintance was commenced; but shortly after the lady attempted to break it off, on the ground that she had mistaken her own feelings, and that she did not intend to marry. This was at the end of 1848. Several letters were exchanged, not particularly overcharged with expressions indicative of the tender passion, and eventually the defendant was accepted. The plaintiff's brother borrowed 300*l.* from the defendant, and the plaintiff gave a note for it, as the brother had advanced her the means of fixing in business. Afterwards the defendant wished for the marriage to be put off for twelve months (as his brother objected to it) until the objection of his brother could be overcome. As he had suggested that the business should be sold, and attempts had been made to dispose of it, the defendant offered to maintain the plaintiff until he could marry her. This she refused. After this time the defendant got cool, and as he got cool the lady got proportionately anxious that the engagement should be fulfilled. Ultimately the defendant commenced his action for the 300*l.* and interest, and then the lady commenced her action for breach of promise by way of set off. For the defence it was contended that the defendant had been released from the obligation; that the letters plainly made out that there was no affection in the matter, but the transaction was one purely and solely of business; and that the action would not have been brought had not the defendant become plaintiff in another action to recover the lent money. Baron Alderson, in summing up, remarked that probably there was not much affection in the matter; but the lady was induced to believe that she was to be made the wife of a respectable

Lincolnshire yeoman, and undoubtedly she was entitled to remuneration for the lost position; for it was in evidence that the defendant had promised to marry the plaintiff, and settle 200*l.* yearly upon her. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, 600*l.*

Dreadful *Election Riots* have taken place in Ireland. At Belfast, on the 13th, there was a desperate affray between the Protestants and Romanists. It appears from the accounts that the Romanists first attacked the house of one Ball, a Protestant, and that three persons were shot in the fray. As it was feared that there would be retaliation, a party of the Constabulary were stationed in the excited quarter, and they maintained order and calm till about the time the people left work at the factories; but as soon as the people left the factories, the two parties came into collision at so many points that the police could not restrain them, and at last there was a desperate and general conflict. The principal scene of action was between College Square North, and Barrack Street. For nearly an hour a fight continued almost without intermission, notwithstanding all the efforts of the small body of Constabulary present to restore order. The two parties successively assailed each other, and retired, according to the fortunes of the fight, or as either were driven off by the police. The attack was not confined to the persons of their adversaries. They began to wreck the houses on either side of the street, each party assailing those in which the families of the opposite party resided. Fire arms were now in requisition; and many of the combatants, some from the street and others from the houses, kept up a continual volley from muskets and large pistols, which gave the spectator the idea of a town being sacked. A lad of sixteen years of age, named Henderson, received one ball through his breast and another through his wrist. He was taken to the hospital in a dying state. Respectably dressed women were seen supplying the combatants with huge paving-stones and brickbats, which they carried from the rear of their houses in baskets, in their aprons, and in crocks, to the street-front; and while the stones were flying and balls whizzing above their heads, young girls were breaking the larger brickbats into more handy missiles for the use of the rioters. One woman was seen at a window signalling to the Romanist party beneath when to advance or when to retire, as she perceived the motions of the police. Meantime, information was sent to the Mayor, Mr. S. G. Fenton, who arrived shortly after nine o'clock, and read the Riot Act, ordering the people to disperse. Mr. W. S. Tracy, R.M., was also present, issuing orders. About the same time, in consequence of an application forwarded to the barracks, a troop of Dragoons, and two companies of the Forty-sixth Foot made their appearance on the ground, and rapidly cleared the streets in every direction.

At Cork, during the polling, on the 12th, violent disturbances took place. At the polling-booths in the Lee Ward, so great was the rioting and interference by the mob with the voters, that the booths had to be closed early in the day, and the polling suspended; and notwithstanding the presence of a large force of Constabulary and military, voters were maltreated, stones were falling on all sides, and the greatest rioting prevailed. In the course of the day the houses and shops of many, supposed to be adverse to the popular candidates, were assaulted and the windows smashed. Several respectable citizens were attacked and beaten in the most cowardly manner.

At Limerick, the populace were still more outrageous. At the nomination, on the 12th, there was a mob of twenty thousand persons. The court was opened at half-past ten o'clock, when the candidates and their friends were admitted to the galleries. To depict the scene would at this moment be impossible. Benches, bars, and seats, were torn up by the mob in the Liberal interest, and hurled with tremendous violence at Mr. Russell and his friends, several of whom were cut and wounded. A man was flung from the gallery, and spiked on the rails beneath. Not one word could be heard from either proposers or seconders, and the candidates at either side were not allowed to speak a word. In the evening the windows of every Roman Catholic in Limerick who promised to support Mr.

Russell were broken by the mob, and military and police were called out. The military were attacked with stones; five of the dragoons were unhorsed, and two officers were wounded. The troops had to charge; and the result was that thirteen persons were next day under hospital treatment. On the 13th the city seemed in a state of siege. The streets were paraded by Artillery with lighted matches, and Dragoons with drawn swords and carbines loaded. The approaches to the city in every quarter were occupied by strong detachments of military and police.

Several cases of *Incendiary Fires* were tried at the Bedford Assizes on the 17th. Richard Brown, convicted of having set fire to five bean stacks, and William Cooper, convicted of having set fire to a stack of straw, were sentenced to be transported for life. Alfred Ingreay and William Gentle, for setting fire to a stack of haulm, were sentenced to be imprisoned for one year; and Catherine Butcher, for setting fire to a pigstye, was ordered to be imprisoned for three years.

At the Derby Assizes, on the 19th, Mr. Blakecock obtained 500*l.* Damages from the *Midland Railway Company* in compensation of an injury he had sustained by the accident at Clay Cross, on the 19th of May 1851, when his ankle joint was broken, and he suffered from a concussion of the brain.

At the Oxford Assizes, on the 16th, Elijah Noon, a plasterer, was indicted for the *Murder* of his wife. The circumstances of the case were very painful. The principal witness for the prosecution was the prisoner's daughter, a little girl twelve years of age. She stated that she lived with her parents in Oxford. In consequence of her father not returning home on Saturday night, her mother went to look for him soon after midnight. They returned together in a few minutes; he was not sober. Her mother upbraided him with staying out late. He took some money out and counted it. She said he could treat other persons and not her. He then took down a sword from the shelf, pulled it out of the sheath, and struck the deceased, who was sitting down, on the back with the flat part of the sword. The child ran to the door and got outside; the mother got up and attempted to follow her, and her daughter took hold of her hand to pull her through. The father was standing in the room, and according to the child's first account he went to his wife at the door with the sword, and ran it into her left side. It appeared, however, that the witness could not see the actual thrust; but her mother screaming out, the child pulled her out of the room into the street, where she fell down. She was then led to a neighbour's, and was taken back to her own house. On examination, a wound was found in her left side, of which she died in about 24 hours. The prisoner paid every attention to her during her last hours. On being brought back to the house he took hold of her hand, and helped her up stairs. She said to him, "Elijah, I freely forgive you, as I hope the Lord will forgive me; but always avoid passion." In defence it was contended, that the facts proved were consistent with the supposition that the deceased, in resisting the effort of her daughter to remove her from the room, fell back on the sword, which the prisoner was too much intoxicated to know was unsheathed. A number of witnesses deposed to the prisoner's good character. The jury, after considerable deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

At the York Assizes, on the 20th, Elizabeth Johnson was indicted for having *Ill-used two children, of whom she was the Step-mother*. The prosecutor was brought up by the guardians of the Burlington Union. The charge was, that she had neglected her duty in not providing and administering proper food and clothing to one of two young children, of whom she was the step-mother, having been married to the father of the children between two and three years ago. On the 4th of May last, a neighbour found the two children (one a girl and the other a boy, six and four years of age respectively) in the corner of a lime-kiln, apparently suffering from cold and want of food. They were afraid to go home, and refused to do so; and the person who found them consequently went to the aunt of the children, the sister of their own mother, and she went

to Johnson's house, told Mrs. Johnson where the children had been found, and desired her to fetch them home. Neither she nor her husband, who is a fisherman, did fetch them home; and at eleven o'clock at night they were provided for by the person who had so humanely taken pity upon them, and next day they were sent to the workhouse. It appeared that the woman had frequently ill-used the children, by turning them out of doors at unreasonable hours, and threatening to beat them if they returned. They looked starved, and the neighbours fed and clothed them at times, but the clothes that they gave them always soon disappeared. The prisoner had been frequently remonstrated with, when she expressed herself in unfeeling terms towards the children, saying on one occasion that "she hated the little devils, and that she would poison them." The neighbours had frequently been disturbed at night-time by the cries of the children, in consequence of the ill-treatment they experienced; and on one occasion, when the sound of something falling on the floor had been heard, it was found afterwards that the prisoner had been beating the little girl, and had then thrown her out of bed by the hair of the head. In defence, the prisoner endeavoured to inculpate her husband, and said that she had neither food nor clothing to give the children. The jury found her guilty, and she was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. John Johnson, the husband, was also arraigned upon a similar indictment, but the prosecution offered no evidence, and a verdict of acquittal having been taken, he was discharged.

Several cases of *Attempted Suicide* by women were investigated at the Worship-street Police Court on the 20th inst. In the first charge, against a good-looking young Irishwoman, named Anne Spiller, who stood at the bar with a baby in her arms, it appeared that she had been seduced by a young man residing in Spital-fields, and, upon the birth of a child, she took out a warrant against the putative father to compel him to support it. The warrant was then dismissed, in consequence, as she alleged, of the false evidence of a female relative of the father, who, however, continued to allow her a small sum weekly, paid by himself personally, until some time ago, when he discontinued it altogether, and on Monday evening she called at his lodgings to obtain the money in arrear. She was told the father was not at home, and after waiting some time she suddenly quitted the house, leaving the baby behind her in the landlord's parlour. She immediately returned, and raised such a disturbance that a large mob collected, and it was necessary to send for an officer to compel her to go. With great difficulty the constable got her into the street, but she had only proceeded a few yards when she threw her child down on the pavement, and ran off with such rapidity that it was only after a long pursuit that she was overtaken and lodged in the station, as much for her own protection as for that of the infant. She was locked up in one of the cells, and appeared perfectly quiet; but upon a police-sergeant going again to look at her at a later hour, he found her senseless, black in the face, and almost lifeless, from her having twisted her apron tightly round her throat; and it was only after a considerable period, and with the greatest care and attention, that she was restored to animation. When called upon for her defence the prisoner declared that she was penniless and starving; and as, after repeatedly calling at her child's father's house, she could neither see him nor obtain any money, she was driven to desperation. As she expressed no regret for the act she had attempted, the magistrate intimated his intention to send her to the House of Detention for a week, that she might have time for reflection, upon which the prisoner bitterly exclaimed, "Then my poor baby shall not go to prison with me—that I am determined," and having placed the child down on the floor of the court, walked into the cell without it, the magistrate subsequently directing the officer to convey the infant to the workhouse, until its mother's liberation.—In a second case, that of a decent-looking married woman, named Maria Mitchell, it seemed that she was seized with a fit of jealousy on the preceding evening, which induced her to drink; and, meeting another woman about ten o'clock in the Hackney-road, she commenced so fur-

ously quarrelling with and attacking her, that a crowd collected round them, and as the constable who came up could not persuade her to go home or be quiet, he was obliged at last to lodge her in the station. There she was placed in one of the cells, and upon a sergeant going to visit her about an hour after, he found her stretched on her side on the floor, a ligature—formed by tearing off the hem of her garment—bound firmly round her neck, and exhibiting such indications of death, that it was with extreme difficulty, even with surgical aid, that she was at length restored to consciousness.—A third charge was then taken against a well-dressed young woman, named Sarah Richardson, in whose case it appeared that she was out sweethearting with an admirer named Lynch, a plasterer at Holloway; when, while walking together along the towing-path of the Regent's Canal, near the New North-road, between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, some lovers' quarrel ensued between them, and without further ado she suddenly shook herself off his arm and plunged head foremost into the water. The young man instantly dashed in after her, but owing to the depth of water at that part she sank several times, and it was not till she was nearly lifeless that he succeeded in ultimately getting her to the bank, when she was found to be in such a dangerous state, both of body and mind, she repeatedly declaring, upon recovering her senses, that she would complete the attempt on the first opportunity, that her sweetheart was compelled to give her up to the police. The women were all committed for a week, that the chaplain of the gaol might bring them to a due sense of their conduct.

A Matter of very great Importance to Emigrants was brought before Alderman Sir Robert Carden, at the Mansion House, on the 21st inst. Captain Lean, R. N., the government emigration agent, accompanied by some working men of respectable appearance, appeared to make a public complaint against a company called in the prospectus "The Australian Gold Company and Emigration Company," the offices of which were stated to be held at No. 6, Austin-friars. Some persons who had engaged and partly paid for their passage to Australia, at the offices of the company, induced by the manifold advantages it held out to the industrious, found that they were the victims of a nefarious fraud; that the owners of the Camilla, the vessel in which they were told they were to sail to the land of promise, disclaimed all knowledge of the directors; and that one of the clerks, who seemed to be a leading character in the management, and had given receipts for the cash, was an inmate of Whitecross-street prison. Captain Lean, upon hearing the statements of the poor men, went to the offices of the company and made every effort to obtain restitution, but in vain. In the list of the directors in the prospectus he had observed the name of a nobleman, and the names of several gentlemen of unquestionable respectability; but, upon making the inquiries which the nature of the proceedings described to him had rendered necessary, he was assured that one and all denied not only any participation in the profits, but any knowledge of the concern. He applied by letter to Captain Smith, R. N., whose name appeared in the prospectus under the head of secretary to the company, and that gentleman with great readiness came forward, disavowed the secretaryship, and expressed his willingness to go before the Lord Mayor for the purpose of proving that he was not connected with the scheme; and of representing that, to the best of his belief, the other gentlemen, who were named in the printed paper, were not by any means cognisant of the proceedings of those who had possessed themselves of the money of the emigrants. Captain Lean produced receipts for several sums of money, signed some of them by the person in Whitecross-street Prison, and some by another clerk to the company, who did not think proper to attend at the Mansion House, although informed of the intention of the complainants to appeal to the City authorities. The Alderman said that the prospectus had been before the public for some time, and that it had been advertised in the newspapers. If so, he held that every gentleman whose name appeared in it as a director was responsible for all the money received at the Company's

offices. Captain Smith said that he wished to make an explanation as to the use of his name in the prospectus as secretary. He had nothing to do with that office. He had distinctly declared that he would not act as secretary, and he did not know who had published the prospectus and placed him in that character. He had every reason to suppose that the gentlemen named as directors were wholly ignorant of the transactions in question, and that the blame lay with the person who was locked up in Whitecross-street prison, and the other individual who had been acting with him in a subordinate capacity. Sir R. W. Carden: Whom did you know then amongst those who formed the company? Captain Smith: I know the person just described as a prisoner in Whitecross-street, but I had a very different opinion of him from that which I now entertain. I was never at the offices but once, and when I was there I was told that one of the gentlemen mentioned in the prospectus as a director was in the chair, and that the noble lord also stated to be a director was present. Sir R. W. Carden: How long has this prospectus been out? Captain Smith: About three weeks. It has not to my knowledge been advertised in the public papers. I think it necessary for me to state that I cautioned the parties whom I believe to be principally instrumental to these transactions against committing themselves by taking deposits. Sir R. W. Carden: Well, then, you certainly appear a secretary, and if you did not upon finding yourself, to your surprise and indignation, represented as a character which did not belong to you, write to the directors, and publicly disavow the imputation, you are, in my opinion, in a state of undeniable responsibility as to all the pecuniary matters in which the company is involved. The alderman then asked if any of the directors of the Australian Gold Company and Emigration Company were present. There was no answer. Capt. Smith: I wrote to them, requesting their attendance. Sir R. W. Carden: How many persons were in the board-room when you called at the offices? Captain Smith: I understood from the clerks that there were four, amongst whom was the noble lord and the attorney's clerk. Sir R. W. Carden: How much money had been received altogether? Captain Smith: I have no idea of the receipts. Sir R. W. Carden: Who was the cashier? Captain Smith: I do not know; but I believe the clerk alluded to did all the business, and that the directors were not aware that anything of a dishonourable kind was thought of in the concern. The alderman expressed his determination to sift the matter to the bottom, and ordered summonses to be issued to the directors to appear on the 23rd. On the 24th the case again underwent a long investigation before Alderman Carden. The justice room was crowded with gentlemen connected with the Stock Exchange, and others who were interested in the proceedings. Lord Kilworth and some of the other gentlemen whose names were mentioned in one of the printed humbug lists, and who, as it afterwards appeared, knew nothing whatever of the company, were in attendance. Among them were Mr. Ruston Reed, Major Hawkes, and Mr. Dawson. These gentlemen had been summoned to attend in consequence of the issue of the prospectus which mentioned their names. Henry Graham Montague, who appeared to be the acting manager of the concern, and C. J. Tripe, a young man who seemed to have acted under the control of Mr. Montague, were put to the bar upon the charge of having cheated and defrauded the emigrants. Several witnesses described the way in which they had been imposed upon. John Jones, of Dalston, said, that seeing, as he was passing along Austin Friars, a board relative to the Australian Mining and Emigration Company, he went in and saw Mr. Tripe, and two gentlemen, and two boys. Mr. Tripe told him of a vessel for Australia, called the Camilla, lying at the West India Docks. He went and looked at her, and afterwards went again to the office with four friends, where he saw Mr. Montague and Mr. Tripe, and agreed to pay 22*l.* each for their passage. Jones paid Mr. Montague 11*l.* down, the balance to be paid on embarkation. Mr. Tripe counted the money and put it in a box. Jones said he hoped the company was all right. "Oh yes," said they, "no fear of that, the

directors are all respectable gentlemen." He afterwards called several times at the office, but saw only a couple of boys, and afterwards learned that Mr. Montague, to whom he had paid his money, was in prison. He had demanded a birth in the Camilla, but was refused. James Thorne, a boy of sixteen, said he had been engaged by Mr. Tripe as a clerk in the Australian Mining and Emigration Office. There were two other boys. No book was kept except a call book, in which the names of people who called were put down. Montague and Tripe sat in a private room, called the board-room. He was in the office six weeks, but received payment for no more than two, and when he asked for his salary Mr. Tripe told him to wait. The list of proprietors of the Australian Gold Diggings Company, to which was attached the name of Mr. Montague, as mineralogist, &c., &c., was handed up to the Alderman, who said: "I have ascertained that the names of the gentlemen put forward in this list have been every one used without their knowledge of the concern, or any one connected with it, and there are several other impositions of the kind passing before the eyes of the public daily." When the examination was finished, the Alderman expressed his satisfaction that there was not the slightest imputation against any of the gentlemen whose names had been put down in the prospectus without their sanction. With respect to the two prisoners it was his intention on a future day to commit them for trial, and he hoped the public would exercise the utmost vigilance in dealing with mining and emigration companies, particularly at such a time. Montague, who was brought by habeas from the Queen's Bench prison, was then delivered into the custody of the sheriff's officer and taken back with a magisterial detainer to that place of security, and Tripe was conveyed to the Compter.

At the Lewes Assizes, on the 23rd, Charles Staden and John James were tried for a conspiracy to cheat a young gentleman named Hamp, by *Fraudulent play at Cards*. John Broome, the pugilist, was to have been included in the same charge, but he failed to appear to take his trial. A warrant was issued for his apprehension, and the trial of the other two defendants was proceeded with. Mr. Hamp's story of the manner in which he had been plucked was corroborated by the other evidence. He said he was twenty-two, and of no profession. When he came of age he was entitled to considerable property; and he came to London in July last to see the Exhibition, and took up his quarters at the house of Broome, the pugilist, the Rising Sun, in Piccadilly. He accompanied Broome and a party of his friends to Brighton, to see the races. After the races were over, Staden and James were introduced to the party, and they all dined at the house of a person named Mutton. On the following day they again went to Mutton's, and began to toss for "the odd man." He lost 10l. or 20l. at the tossing, at least he had that amount when he went in, and he had nothing when he went out. They began tossing for half-crowns, and increased the stake to half-a-sovereign, and then a sovereign, and while they were tossing they drank brandy and water and American punch. He did not know who ordered or who paid for the liquor. When they left Mutton's house he believed they all four went to Staden's house, and when they went in, brandy, rum, and gin were put upon the table, and they all drank some. Broome then asked Staden if he had got any cards in the house, and he said he believed he had a pack, but he did not know whether the children had got hold of them, and he shortly afterwards brought out a pack of cards, which appeared quite clean, and not at all as though they had been in the hands of children. They then proposed playing at cards, and the witness said he did not understand any game. Broome then threw himself upon a sofa, and apparently went to sleep, and the witness, and James, and Staden proceeded to play at "Wiffal Murder." He did not know how long they played, but he did not get to his lodgings until six o'clock the following morning. He did not know whether he had any money in his pocket at the time he was playing, but when his losses amounted to one hundred pounds, Staden produced a blank stamp from his pocket, and witness put his name across it. He at first objected to put his

name to the stamp, and said he did not understand bills; but Staden replied that he was a straightforward fellow, and he liked business done, and he then wrote his name on the stamp. He lost 300l. altogether in this manner; and each time his losses amounted to 100l. Staden produced a bill for him to sign; but upon the third stamp he merely wrote "accepted," and forgot to put his name. The defendant James filled up two of the bills. When he got home to his lodgings he threw himself on the bed with his clothes on, and about eleven o'clock the same morning, while he was having his breakfast, Staden came in, and he heard him say something about money, and a share of a 100l.; and he then told witness that he had not signed the third bill, and he gave it to him, and he signed it. On being cross-examined, Mr. Hamp admitted that he had been at Broome's house since this transaction occurred; and it also appeared that Broome had stayed at Mr. Hamp's house in the country during the last hunting season. The Lord Chief Justice asked the prosecutor how he could entertain a man at his house for a fortnight whom he charged with robbing him. Mr. Hamp said that Broome came to his house and he allowed him to stay—that was all he knew about it. The Lord Chief Justice, in summing up, said it was clear that the prosecutor had acted with a great deal of indiscretion and folly in the transaction, but that afforded no ground of excuse for the defendants, and if the jury should be of opinion that the evidence was sufficient to satisfy them that the defendants conspired together for the purpose of plundering him, it would be their duty to say so by their verdict. The jury returned a verdict of guilty against both defendants, and they were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for two years. This case ought to have been tried at the last assizes, but the prosecutor did not appear to give evidence, and his recognisance in the sum of 500l. was ordered to be estreated. It now appeared that Mr. Hamp had gone to Bologna to avoid appearing on that occasion. The Lord Chief Justice directed that he should enter into a recognisance of 500l. to appear and give evidence against Broome at the next assizes.

C. Collins, an old man of shabby-genteel appearance, was charged at the Westminster Police Court on the 13th, with *Fraudulently Obtaining a Portrait of the Earl of Desart*. H. Cox, butler to the Earl, said that the prisoner, after writing to his lordship, came to his house in 1848, and had an interview with him. His object in writing and coming was to obtain his lordship's portrait, to have a copy engraved from it. Prisoner subsequently sent a man for the portrait in 1848, and it was taken away by him. About five weeks ago the Earl received the following letter, enclosing a pawnbroker's ticket of the portrait.

"My Lord,—I have really now no other remedy but to write to your lordship and disclose what must be to me most painful; I struggled, but failed in my efforts, to publish your lordship's portrait in my national work of eminent Conservatives, and during the Whig administration my efforts were all in vain. A distress on my property was the result, and in order to save the property of others, I was compelled to adopt a most disagreeable mode to do so. Your lordship's portrait, amongst the rest, is in perfect safety at a considerable expense to myself. Now, my lord, I rejoiced when Lord Derby's Government was installed! I made myself quite certain of conquering my difficulties, by proceeding with my national work, and my resolution was formed to place your portrait in hand forthwith; but, my lord, unexpected troubles have come upon me, and you cannot possibly conceive my position. I enclose the document to show the portrait is in safety; but, my lord, not being able to conquer the troubles with which I am visited, I have been advised to have resort to your lordship without loss of time. I will not enter into details as to my present position; suffice it to say, that it is of the most excruciating nature,—I have, &c.,

"C. COLLINS."

The "document" alluded to as enclosed, was the pawnbroker's ticket of the portrait, pledged without the frame in which the accused had received it, for 2l. The police-officer who apprehended the prisoner, found in his lodgings thirty-seven more pawnbroker's tickets for portraits and miniatures, besides a great number of sealed letters, addressed to different members of parliament just elected. They contained a printed circular intimating that the author was publishing the memoirs and portraits of eminent Conservatives, dedicated by the

express permission of the committee of the members of the Carlton Club, while the letters spoken of, addressed to the newly-returned Whig representatives, ran thus:—"In having the honour of placing the enclosed written list in your presence, I beg leave to propose the insertion of your portrait into the new series of this national work to which it relates, and will presume to wait on you for the requisite facilities to enable me to carry out my respectful proposal." The enclosed circular, headed with the name of Lord J. Russell, and followed by Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Bowring, Col. Thompson, Mr. Hume, and a vast number of others in the liberal interest, intimated that the writer, with the countenance of the Reform Club, was about to dedicate his talents to that party. The prisoner denied that he had obtained the portraits under false pretences, as he intended to have had copies engraved, but was unable for want of the promised support. He was remanded for further examination.

A case came before the Middlesex Sessions on the 19th, which shows the evil arising from the *Insufficient care of Lunatics*. Joseph Ayleiff, an elderly man, was tried for stealing a publican's pot. In a field near Kilburn he was found with the pot in question, which he said he had brought from Kent, whereas he had really taken it from the Swan Inn at Ilendon. The innkeeper said he had known the prisoner for a number of years about the neighbourhood of Hendon—a respectable man, and most respectably connected: he could not think he meant to steal the pot. However, Joseph Ayleiff was convicted. One of his sons then told the judge that his father was insane. It appeared that this son had placed him in Marylebone Workhouse; but after he had remained there nearly two years, another son took him out, and allowed him to range uncontrolled—with the result of a conviction for theft. The certificate of the master of the Workhouse stated that at the time the man was given up to his son, he was in an "unsound state of mind." The judge remarked that the lunatic would not have been discharged from any regular public asylum, unless his relatives had given security that he should be placed under proper restraint. Sergeant Adams would not try him on a second charge of stealing a shawl. The formal sentence was six months' imprisonment with hard labour; but, on a surgeon's certificate of insanity, the poor man is to be placed in an asylum.

In the Insolvent Debtors' Court, on the 21th inst., Alexander Wallace, who had been a student at Oxford, applied to be *Discharged*. His debts exceeded 900*l.*; and for nearly 600*l.* he had received no consideration on accommodation bills accepted by him for other Oxford students, and now held by bill discounters. Mr. Commissioner Phillips expressed himself in indignant terms on the schedule. There were debts for cigars and jewellery. It was elicited from the insolvent that his father was a conveyancer, and had allowed him 150*l.* a year, and had paid some debts contracted at Oxford. The insolvent's counsel hoped it would be a lesson to him. Mr. Commissioner Phillips was inclined to make it a serious lesson by giving a remand, but it was pity for the father, and not for the insolvent, that induced him to forego. Had a tradesman opposed, he would have been remanded for six months. The insolvent was discharged.

John Mephram, convicted of *Highway Robbery* at the Lewes Assizes, on the 23rd, was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years. He had waylaid a farmer who was returning home from a sheep fair, knocked him down, and robbed him of 10*l.* in bank notes and some silver.

In December last, a milkman named George Bush, a quiet, inoffensive man, residing near Bath, was *Murdered*. He had attended an auction-sale at a neighbouring village, and, after having spent part of the evening at the village public-house, left it to go home, and next morning was found dead in a field, with his throat cut, and his pockets rifled. Several persons were apprehended on suspicion, but discharged. But an Irish pedlar, named Christopher Smith, while imprisoned in Dorchester jail as a vagrant, told a fellow prisoner that he had committed a murder in Somersetshire. This led to his apprehension on suspicion of the murder of Bush; and the prisoner made the following confession

to the chief of the Bath police:—"I was at the public-house, and at the time selling lucifers and other little things. I had half a pint of beer, and I saw the man I murdered pull out his purse, which tempted me. I followed him from the public-house until he went two or three fields over a stile, and when he got 70 or 80 yards I tripped him up with my foot. He fell on the back of his head and called out 'Murder' very loudly, and said to me, 'Do you want to murder me?' I replied to him, 'Yes.'" The prisoner, then looking at his arms, said, "I was then much stronger and more active than I am now, and I held him a few minutes and drew my knife across his throat two or three times, and he never moved afterwards. There was not much struggling, as it was soon over. I knelt on him, and when I was on him the blood came over me, and I tore up some grass and stuffed it into the cut. I then took his purse, but did not get more than seven or eight shillings. I thought he had more, or it would not have happened. I am sorry for it. It was a cold-blooded deed, and one of the worst murders that ever was done. I slept in a cart-house that night, and in barns and under haystacks ever since; but wherever I was I could not rest, as I saw the man. It was a dreadful thing to have on the mind, and I am perfectly prepared to die for it." On the 24th inst. Smith was brought before the county magistrates at Bath. A number of witnesses were examined, whose evidence corroborated the prisoner's confession. When the magistrates were considering the propriety of calling further witnesses, he said, "Gentlemen, there's enough of evidence to hang twenty, without any more." He was committed for trial at the next assizes.

A dreadful act of *Piracy and Murder* has been committed by Coolies on board an American vessel, the Robert Browne, in March last. An account of it is contained in the deposition of Joseph Valentine, the steward of the ship. She sailed from Amoy with a crew of 19 men, and about 400 Chinese, bound for San Francisco. The captain in order to maintain cleanliness cut off the tails of a great many of the Coolies, and obliged them to come on deck and be washed all over in cold water, the men scrubbing them with cane brooms. The Coolies evinced much concern at losing their tails, many of them crying. They were well furnished with food and water. On the 10th day out, while Valentine was at the galley door about half-past nine in the morning, he heard a shout from the Chinamen, and saw a body of them rushing aft, armed with pieces of wood as clubs, and, at the same time, one from behind seized him round the wrist. With a small knife he held he cut his wrist, and the Coolie let go his hold and followed his companions aft. Valentine then went into the galley with the Chinese cook, and both held the doors to prevent the ingress of the Coolies. From a small window in the front of the galley, he saw the murder of the second mate, who was knocked down by blows on the head from ten or twelve men, and some of the Coolies, having by that time obtained boarding pikes, stabbed him. He was thrown overboard not quite dead, and clinging to a rope was stabbed again with pikes till he relinquished his hold. The Coolies then forced the doors of the galley and stabbed at Valentine with the pikes, notwithstanding the intercession of the cook. He succeeded in wresting a pike from them, and drove them aft, one or two of the Coolies falling by his thrusts. He then jumped down the forecabin hatch, where they barricaded him in. In about an hour they called to him through one of the Chinese, who spoke English, and told him to come up, promising not to hurt him. He did so, and was led aft to the wheel, where Smith was also brought. After steering for an hour Valentine was taken into the cabin, and ordered under pain of death to show where the captain's valuables were. He did so, but they got but little. The men were aloft when Valentine came on deck, whither they had retreated after making unavailing resistance. The Coolies told the men if they would come down and take them to land they would not hurt them. The men did so, and they were all well treated while they were returning. Valentine was informed by the Chinese that the captain, two officers, and three men, had been killed. The Coolies obliged him to attend the wounded

among themselves, of which there were several, and they said eight of their number were killed in the fight and thrown overboard. They quarrelled much among themselves about the division of the plunder. Some days afterwards, land was made, and Valentine and another man found means to escape from the vessel.

Another *Breach of Promise* case was tried at Nottingham on the 23rd. Fanny Bird, a farmer's daughter, about four-and-twenty years of age, went in April, 1850, to perform the duties of housekeeper for her brother, who held a small farm and water corn-mill at Shirland Park, in Derbyshire. Near to her brother's house lived a family named Bansall, who soon became intimate with their new neighbours. George Bansall the son, twenty years old, fell in love with Miss Bird, who was pretty, lively, and well educated for a farmer's daughter. For some months Bansall simply paid assiduous court to the young lady in the ordinary way; but at length he wrote a letter formally declaring his passion, and soliciting an instant reply. Miss Bird did not send one. About a week after, Bansall met her at Mansfield fair; went home in her company; declared his love, and was accepted. The courtship now ran smoothly; Bansall being constantly at the Birds', writing foolish verses, and making presents. At length Fanny found herself about to become a mother. In her terror she told her lover: he replied, they would soon be married; his father would take a farm for him, and all would go well. The wedding-day was fixed, the ring bought, the clothes made; but the farm was not taken, and the day was adjourned. Bansall now proposed that they should go to Australia; but their plan failed. Another day was fixed, but Bansall did not come; and gradually he deserted her, and she went home. On the 23rd of October, 1851, a female child was born. Bansall was again asked whether he intended to marry her; but he did not reply. There was only one course left for her friends—an action against Bansall. The jury assessed the damages at 800*l*.

Another *Garotte Robbery* has been committed at Leeds. On the 26th, four men, named George Wood, John Bone, John Hudson, and Robert Turner, were brought up before the Leeds sitting justices, charged with assaulting and robbing Michael Coleman, a carver and glider, residing at Huddersfield. A police officer stated that about one o'clock on Sunday morning, while on duty at the west end of the town, he heard a loud cry of "Murder," and on going to the spot, he found Michael Coleman in Corporation-street, standing with his hat off, and bleeding profusely about the head and face. He complained of having been knocked down by some men, who, he said, had robbed and nearly killed him. After endeavouring but in vain to trace out the parties, he (the policeman) returned to Coleman and set him off towards Woodhouse, where he said his mother resided. About an hour later on, he (the policeman) heard another call of "Watch." This was on the Kirkstall road, not far from Corporation-street, and on going to the place he met a man named John Broadbent, who complained of three or four men having assaulted and robbed him, and he further stated that the men who had assailed him had walked off towards a haystack, which he pointed out, and behind it they found the four prisoners covered over with hay. On two of them was found a hat, a shirt front, two tobacco boxes, and other articles belonging to Coleman, the man who was first robbed. Coleman himself was too ill to attend to give evidence against the prisoners, who were remanded.

At the Derby election, a person named Morgan was found with money in his possession, and documents proving that he was engaged in *Bribery*. Amongst other things, there was the following letter, addressed to "Mr. John Frail, Clerk of the Course, Shrewsbury"—

"A good and safe man, with judgment and quickness, is wanted immediately at Derby. I suppose that you cannot leave your own place; if not, send some one whom you can trust in your place. Let him go to Derby on receiving this, and find the County Tavern, in the centre of the town, and send his card to Cox, Brothers, and Company, lead-works, as coming from Chester; that will be enough. W. B.

"Monday."

An investigation took place before the magistrates, and a Mr. Keogh, who had been secretary of the

Reading and Reigate Railway, at which time Major William Beresford was chairman, stated that the letter and the address on the envelope were in the handwriting of Major William Beresford, M.P., now Secretary at War. Bribery by Morgan was proved by a butcher, whose name was marked 1053 in Morgan's pocket book, and who admitted that he had taken 2*l*. to vote for Horsfall. Morgan was committed, but afterwards liberated on bail, himself on 300*l*., and two sureties in 150*l*. each.

A *Process* has taken place between Mr. Digby Seymour, the newly returned member for Sunderland, and Mr. Campbell Foster. Mr. Seymour used expressions in one of his election-speeches which were considered injurious to Mr. Campbell Foster. A mutual friend interfered, and obtained an expression of regret from Mr. Seymour. But the two gentlemen afterwards met in York Castle, and a dispute arose as to whether Mr. Seymour's letter was an apology. Angry words were exchanged, and were succeeded by a regular boxing-match. Bystanders interfered, and the learned pugilists were taken before Lord Campbell and Mr. Justice Wightman; there admonished on the great impropriety of their conduct, and bound on their own recognizances in 500*l*. each to keep the peace for six months.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

THE Duchess of St. Albans and Lady Beaclerk met with a *Dangerous Accident* on the 30th June. The Duchess had visited the exhibition of the Botanical Society in the Regent's Park, and was crossing the ornamental basin in her carriage by the bridge; suddenly the box on which the coachman and footman were sitting gave way. The footman managed to gain his legs, but the coachman fell. The horses, being unchecked, plunged violently, and started off. Before they passed through the gates, the coachman, fortunately, got extricated; he had apparently received no hurt, for he got up directly, and ran after the carriage, followed by the footman. The horses went at their utmost speed towards Marylebone Church; where they came in collision with the iron railings in front of the portico, two bars of which were snapped; both the horses fell, and it was found afterwards that one of them had its neck broken. The ladies were taken from the carriage unhurt.

A terrible *Steam-boat Collision* happened in the Thames, off Northfleet, on the 1st inst. The Ravensbourne, bound for Antwerp, was running down the river with full tide in her favour, almost in the wake (a little on the star-board quarter) of the Meteor, Gravesend steamer, and was nearly opposite Northfleet at two o'clock. Near Northfleet point, the Margate steamship, Duchess of Kent, was met coming up against the tide, hugging the Kentish shore closely. The Ravensbourne was about three parts over towards that shore, and as she came near to the point, she seemed to take the starboard tack, which would bring her nearer to the Kentish shore. The Duchess of Kent was crossing over from the point, and was trying to go between the Ravensbourne and the Meteor, when the Ravensbourne came full upon her bows, about twenty feet from her figure-head, and stove her in to such an extent that she immediately began to fill, and in nine minutes of time she went down head-foremost, in deep water. A dreadful scene ensued. There were from seventy to a hundred persons—many ladies and children—in the sinking steamer. Some were got on board the Ravensbourne. The Meteor approached alongside and took off the rest, except a Mr. Hale, who was too infirm to move. This gentleman went down with the vessel; but when in water he rose, and kept afloat till a boat took him up. In the confusion of the moment, it was rumoured that some passengers were missing; but it was ultimately found that all escaped. The Ravensbourne was so little damaged that she proceeded on her voyage.

A *gallant act* has been performed by Mr. G. H. Bowden, a young gentleman of Eton. A gentleman was rowing near Windsor; his boat upset in shallow water;

but the strong stream carried the gentleman into deep water, where he struggled for life. Mr. Bowden saw him, leaped in dressed as he was, rescued the drowning man, and then composedly walked home to change his clothes; without mentioning the circumstance which was related by the gentleman himself.

Three young men have been drowned in the Tay at Dundee, by the swamping of a boat which was ill constructed to encounter the slight roughness of the waves caused by a breeze meeting a flood-tide, and raising "jabbles" over the sand-banks in the river. A party of five left Dundee for the Fifeshire coast. In the evening, one refused to return in the light and shallow boat; but a young gentleman volunteered to supply his place—he perished. The boat was swamped by two waves; the five young men clung to it, but one soon trusted to the oars to support him. For some two hours no aid approached. Then he who was clinging to the oars was picked up, and search was made for the boat; one survivor only remained clinging to it. Those who perished were Mr. Alexander Kimmond, son of a merchant; Mr. Henry Bell, son of a deceased sailmaker; and Mr. David Kay—the volunteer—son of Mr. Kay, formerly Provost of the town.

The *Dangers of the Serpentine* were shown at an inquest held on the body of a young man named Corner, an excellent swimmer, who was drowned in that river on Sunday the 11th inst. The testimony of the witnesses went to prove that he had swam half way across and suddenly called for help, when he turned over head foremost and went down into the deep mud beneath. It was nearly 20 minutes before he could be got up by the Royal Humane Society's men after the time he went down. Mr. Williams, the superintendent of the society, stated that observing the drags were out he instantly got a hot bath in readiness, and when the body was brought in it was black with the mud over the head to the waist where he had been fixed. He was quite dead, but still every means were used to restore him, and Dr. Woolley attended. In answer to a juror, Mr. Williams said that three boats were on the river, but there were a great number of persons in the water.—The juror: Then three boats are not sufficient?—Mr. Williams: No; nor would six be. It is impossible for the boatmen to see what is going on.—The Coroner: The Serpentine, I have understood, is a most dangerous place to bathe in.—Mr. Williams replied it was the most dangerous in the world. There were holes thirty feet deep, and then twelve feet of mud, out of which the best swimmer could never get. There were cold springs too in all parts.—The Coroner observed that it had been suggested in consequence, as he understood, that the bed of the river should be levelled. As this had not been done there seemed no alternative but to prevent bathing altogether there.—The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally Drowned."

A *Fatal Accident* occurred on the Thames on Sunday evening, the 11th inst. Seven men and three women, a party of relatives and friends, hired a shallop at Hungerford stairs, in the morning for a trip to Greenwich. About nine o'clock in the evening, the shallop was returning, with the flood-tide, through Blackfriars Bridge, on the Middlesex side, when she came into collision with the *Dahlia* steamer, which was going against the tide, down the river. The shallop was swamped, and its occupants plunged into the water. Two were picked up by the steamer, and five were rescued by boats which put off from the shore; but John Weston, Anne Williams, a married woman, and Emma Bates, single, were drowned. One of the men saved, husband of Anne Williams, clung to the paddle-wheel, and he was much lacerated.

On the 13th, John Maddox, mate of the *Dahlia*, who had charge of the steamer as the master was ill, was produced at Guildhall Police Office, on a charge of causing the death of the three persons by his wilful negligence. The witnesses examined were the survivors of the party in the shallop, and some persons who gave evidence for the prosecution. The survivors threw the whole blame on the *Dahlia*. The shallop was going with the tide, the steamer against it; the people in the steamer did not keep any look-out, went out of their proper course, did not stop the vessel when shouted to,

and did not aid the persons struggling in the water. Two brothers named Dawson, seafaring men of Sunderland, who were on board the *Dahlia*, and who saved two people, censured the management of the steamer. The vessel was crowded with passengers, standing up for want of seats: had the steamer kept a proper course the disaster would not have happened; but when the people in the shallop shouted there was not time to avoid a collision. Neary, a waterman, a witness for the defence, gave testimony more in favour of the prisoner. He stated that the paddle-wheel was stopped before the collision, and the persons in the shallop upset it by suddenly getting on their legs when the steamer struck the boat. Alderman Lawrence adjourned the inquiry for a week. Maddox was admitted to bail; and after a long investigation the charge against him was dismissed. The three bodies were found. The sufferers were young persons—the women each nineteen years of age, the man twenty-one. A coroner's inquest on the bodies returned a verdict of accidental death; but the jury added their opinion that a sufficient look-out was not kept on board the steamer.

A *Fatal Railway Accident* occurred at Burnly on the 12th. An excursion of Sunday-school teachers and children was sent by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, to Goole; there were thirty-five carriages, and more than a thousand passengers. The party did not approach Burnley on the return at night till half-past eleven o'clock. The train stopped at Townley station, a mile from Burnley, to deposit passengers, and to detach the engine. Trains enter Burnley by descending a decline, the speed being regulated by breaks. About 120 to 150 yards before reaching the Burnley station, the railway crosses a small valley and some water by a bridge; and at the end of this bridge next the station is an iron handle for turning the points, in order to shunt arriving trains upon the main line which is connected with the East Lancashire; departing trains starting from what is in reality a siding, running parallel to the other, but at a gradual rise, till it reaches the station platform, where the siding terminates abruptly at the masonry abutment of a bridge, which is carried over the connecting length of railway, between the Lancashire and Yorkshire and East Lancashire railways. At the platform, the siding or rails for departing trains is six feet above the parallel connecting line. The duty of the pointsman, whose name is Parker, was to shunt any arriving train, so as to descend the connecting line; but the points were not turned, and the impetus of the descending train, notwithstanding the use of the breaks, was so great, that it ran past the offices and station, and came to the solid timber buffers fixed horizontally to the wall of the skew bridge abutment; the effect of the two forces was to press upwards the fourth and fifth carriages from the engine, and to smash the body or frame of one of them almost to pieces. It took some time to cut open the carriages and remove the persons within; and then it was found that one man and three children had been killed. The dead were Daniel Greenwood, a weaver, aged thirty-six; a girl twelve years old, and two girls of ten. Mrs. Taylor, an elderly person, received internal hurts which threatened to be fatal. One man had his ribs fractured, and another had an arm broken. Many other persons were more or less cut and bruised. Parker was taken into custody. The stationmaster was in bed at the time of the accident, unwell: Gledhill, the station-clerk, was also absent—he was arrested, but soon liberated. A coroner's inquest was held, and after an investigation of several days, a verdict of accidental death was returned. In its preamble the jury declared their unanimous opinion "that the sole cause of this accident was owing to the deficiency of guards and pointsmen to let the train safely down the incline into the station, and to the employment of incompetent and irresponsible men, and to the want of order and discipline amongst the company's servants generally, and the total absence of any responsible person to direct and superintend the safe arrival and unloading of the train; and they feel bound to state that the greatest negligence was displayed by the executive officials of the railway company on this occasion. It is the opinion of the jury there is great blame to be attached to the selection of

carriages for this train—more particularly on account of their inequality in size and difference in the height above the rails to the centre of the buffers, as given in evidence. At the same time, the jury wish to record that they had no opportunity of forming an opinion of their condition and construction, as the whole were removed before they were called upon to visit the station. In conclusion the jury beg to submit to the directors of this railway that in the opinion their siding into which the ordinary arrival trains run is fraught with danger, in consequence of being situated at the bottom of an incline, and terminating against a strong, dead buffer." Parker, consequently, was discharged from custody.

Alhwick town was visited on the 12th by a *Thunder-storm* of extraordinary violence. For several hours the flashes and reports followed each other without intermission, the rain poured down in torrents, the lightning was of a most dangerous description, and the thunder terrible. At the new schools now building for the use of the corporation, eight men were standing under the shelter of the scaffolding, when the electric fluid struck one of the poles, which it rent from top to bottom; it then knocked down the eight men, two of whom were killed and another hurt, and then rent part of the wall in its passage.

The *Excessive heat of the Weather* has caused several deaths both in London and the country. A nursery-maid at Notting-hill, a chessmonger in Tottenham Court Road, and a labourer at Harrow, expired from *coups de soleil*. At Cold Aston an old man dropped down dead while whetting his scythe: and near North-leach a shepherd died in the fields. Several men had to be carried from the fields near Newport Pagnell, and one subsequently died. Similar cases occurred at various other places.

In Paris the effects of the heat were still more violent. People were found in the streets in a state of insanity, and several persons, in a delicious condition, threw themselves into the Seine.

A frightful *Railway Accident* occurred on Saturday evening, the 17th, to an engine-driver named Stanley at Gobowen, on the Shrewsbury and Chester line. The unfortunate man had got off the engine at a siding, and was examining the machinery to see that it was in proper working order and not over-heated, and at the same time the stoker was engaged in filling the boiler with water, when three or four waggons which were moving down on an inclined plane towards the engine were allowed to proceed too rapidly by the person who had the charge of them, and who, it is supposed, did not apply the break so vigorously as he ought to have done. The consequence was that the waggons dashed with great velocity against the engine which Stanley was engaged in examining, and the unfortunate man's arm was caught in the machinery, and he was thrown down and the engine went over him, tearing his arm out of the socket and mangle him so frightfully that he expired immediately.

A melancholy accident from the *Incautious use of Firearms*, occurred at Standen-house, near Hungerford, Berks, the seat of the Rev. J. P. Michell on the 20th. His youngest son had been rabbit shooting, and returning home about 9 o'clock in the evening was called by his two youngest sisters from the nursery window, and in turning round to answer them, the gun, which happened to be loaded, went off, and unhappily lodged the contents in the forehead of the youngest, a fine little girl between nine and ten years of age, who survived only a few minutes. The children at the time of the melancholy occurrence had their arms round each others' neck, but strange to say, not a shot touched the other.

Mr. John Dewdney, a respectable gentleman of sixty, *Died while playing at Cricket* on the 21st inst. During a match in Copenhagen fields, he was in the act of making a run when he suddenly fell down, and in a few minutes expired. He had only just taken the bat, scoring one for his first hit, so that it is quite evident that the fatal result was not the effect of fatigue. He had complained of ill health, and said that during the last week he had suffered from sun-stroke, but declined standing out of the match, though advised to do so by several friends.

On the evening of the 21st inst. a *Collision* occurred

at the place where the Leeds Northern line joins the Clarence, near Stockton. The driver of the Leeds Northern luggage train had been down the line to the old Stockton and Hartlepool station, at present used as a goods warehouse, and, after leaving the Stockton goods, was proceeding up the Clarence line, drawing the remainder of the waggons in front of his engine, to get on to the Leeds Northern line. Arriving at the junction of the two railways at the moment the Ferryhill train was coming down, one of the cattle trucks of the luggage train caught the corner of the tender of the passenger train, ran into the luggage van, and smashed it and the adjoining second-class carriage literally in pieces; it also carried away the side of a first-class carriage—tearing away the seats, and doing fearful havoc in its progress. About a dozen passengers were more or less injured, among whom was Mr. Grainger, of Edinburgh, chief engineer of the Leeds Northern line, whose leg was broken in two places. A lady from the south of Scotland, named Cunningham, accompanied by her niece and nursery-maid, had, the two former, each a leg broken, and the latter was severely bruised about the ankle. A Mrs. Lewis, from Middlesbro', was also much bruised; and a commercial traveller from Bradford is much hurt about the leg and ankle. The guard received a cut above the eye; and a man named Smiles Richardson is a good deal hurt about the knee. Some others are slightly injured, but these are the principal sufferers. The engine-driver of the Leeds Northern luggage train was taken in custody soon after the accident happened, and remanded.

A clerk employed at the London terminus of the Eastern Counties Railway has lost his life from *Attempting to Leave a Train before it had stopped*. At Broxbourne, he leapt from a carriage while it was yet in motion, and fell upon the rails; some of the carriages passed over his left leg; amputation was necessary, and he sank from the effects of the operation.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

AN English, Dutch, and Belgian company, has been formed to *Reclaim the land covered by the arm of the sea between the island of South Beveland, and the mainland*. The extent of the area to be reclaimed is 35,000 acres. Captain Pelly, R.N., is chairman of the company, and Sir John Rennie its engineer. A great feature of the works will be the cutting of a ship-canal through South Beveland, in lieu of the channel that will be filled up. The turning of the first sod of the cutting for the canal was performed on the 1st inst., by Captain Pelly, in presence of the Governor of the Province of Zealand, and a company of Dutch and English persons of distinction. Afterwards there was a convivial reunion, at which the toasts of the Queen of England and the King of Holland were interchanged.

A Parliamentary return has been printed which shows the *Population and Inhabited Houses according to the Census of 1851, returning or not returning Members to Parliament*. There are many towns, containing upwards of 2000 inhabitants, not returning members. The following unrepresented metropolitan parishes appear in the return: Chelsea, with a population of 56,238, and 7591 inhabited houses; Kensington, with 41,053, and 6136 inhabited houses; Hammersmith, 17,760, and 3115 inhabited houses; Fulham with 11,886, and 1797 inhabited houses. In the county of Middlesex, the population is 1,886,576, and 239,362 inhabited houses.

From a late census return, the following are the totals of houses and inhabitants in the *Metropolitan Parliamentary boroughs*. In the Tower Hamlets, there are 75,710 inhabited houses, and the population is 539,111; in Marylebone, 40,513 inhabited houses, population 370,957; in Finsbury, 37,427 inhabited houses, population 323,772; in Lambeth, 39,154 inhabited houses, population 251,345; in Westminster, 24,753 inhabited houses, population 241,711; in Southwark, 23,751 inhabited houses, population 172,863. In the City of London there are 14,580 inhabited houses, and the population is 127,869.

The total number of persons receiving out-door relief

in Ireland in the week ending 24th April last, was 3498—in workhouses in the same week, 186,453; showing a decrease, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, of 70,261 paupers, or 27 per cent of the whole.

A meeting has taken place to *Promote the Erection of Improved Dwellings for Married Soldiers*. Prince Albert has given the project his warmest support, and a few officers of the Guards have been able to commence operations which may hereafter be extended. The scheme is to be entirely self-supporting, and, it is hoped, may be so remunerative as to induce capitalists hereafter to embark in a similar praiseworthy object. Funds to the amount of about 4000*l.* have been already subscribed for, and the names of the Prince Consort, Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar, Lords Ellesmere, Strarford, Verulam, F. Fitzclarence, and others, afford some proof of public opinion upon a question that affects the moral and social condition of a class in whose welfare the public cannot fail to take concern. More than usually restricted in their circumstances, they are often driven into the lowest society, forced, as they are, to seek within certain limits for a habitation. The meeting was well attended, and resolutions appointing trustees and approving of the object were passed.

The official report of the *Health of London* during the week ending the 10th instant, contains some interesting particulars respecting the heat of the weather, and its consequences. The week (says the report) that ended last Saturday, brought a considerable accession to the mortality of London, which rose higher than it had been in the eleven weeks preceding. In the week ending July 3, with a mean temperature of 59·7 degrees, the deaths registered were 987; in last week ending July 10, with a mean temperature of 70·9 degrees, they were 1080, showing an increase of nearly 100. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1842-51 the average number of deaths was 889, which, with a correction for increase of population, will be 978. The present return therefore shows a mortality greater than the estimated amount by 102. The average temperature of the corresponding weeks was 62 degrees. From these facts it seems reasonable to draw the inference that a sudden increase of heat above the average, to the amount of 9 degrees, has shortened the lives of more than a hundred persons. A comparison of the returns of the last two weeks appears to show that extreme heat has been unfavourable to the young and the old, while with regard to the middle-aged its tendency has been beneficial, except to such of these as were labouring under consumption. In the week ending 3rd July, 416 children died under 15 years, last week the number rose to 505, exhibiting an increase of 21 per cent.; in the previous week 187 persons of 60 years and upwards sank under disease, last week the number was 203, showing an increase of about 9 per cent.; whereas the deaths among the middle-aged decreased from 383 in the former week to 349 in the last. But it will be observed that the number of fatal cases of phthisis amongst persons between 15 and 60 years rose from 110 in the preceding week to 127 recorded in the present return. Still, comparing the facts of the last two weeks, it appears that there is an increase in the epidemic class, arising partly from scarlatina, and partly from a greater prevalence of diarrhoea; that diseases of the brain and nervous system numbered in both returns 131, while those of the digestive organs rose from 59 to 74, and those of the respiratory organs from 91 to 122. This important increase in the last-mentioned class is due to a greater fatality of bronchitis and inflammation of the lungs among children, for while only 39 of the young died in the previous week of these diseases, they carried off 63 in the last. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·845 in. The mean temperature of the week was 70·9 degrees, which is 11 degrees higher than that of the previous week, and 9·2 degrees above the average of the same week in ten years. The highest temperature occurred on Monday, and was 90·3 degrees; the mean of that day was 75·6 degrees. The highest in the sun, on the same day was 116 deg. The reading of the thermometer in air was higher this day than on any day since the 5th of July, 1846, and

the mean temperature was higher than on any day since the 5th of July, 1836. The highest temperature on Friday was 89 degrees; the mean of that day was 70·9 degrees; and the highest in the sun was 121·5 degrees. The mean daily temperature was 14·1 degrees above the average on Monday, and 11·9 degrees above it on Tuesday, and it was never less than 6 degrees in excess throughout the week. The wind blew from the south-east on Sunday and Monday, and from the north-east and east during the remainder of the week.

The *Royal Agricultural Society* has held its yearly show of agricultural live-stock and farming implements, at Lewes. The general election and oppressive heat of the weather tended to make the attendance of visitors thinner than usual; but there was a very excellent show of stock, and a show of implements unprecedented either in quantity or quality. The advance in the display of instruments is ascribed to the stimulus given to this department of the show by the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park last year. Notable improvements have been made in all sorts of steam-engines for agricultural purposes, and in reaping machines. Nearly a score of improved reaping-machines entered the competition. At the grand dinner of the Society on the 14th, Earl Ducie presided; and Sir John Pakington, Lord Palmerston, the Earl of Carlisle, Chevalier Bunson, and Mr. Laurence, the American Minister, addressed the meeting. Mr. Thompson, one of the "judges," wound up with satisfactory facts about the good influence on agricultural practice which the yearly improvements in agricultural machinery are exercising.

An election of seven children into the *British Orphan Asylum*, at Clapham Rise, took place on the 19th inst. It appeared by the report presented to the meeting that, during the past year, sixteen children had been elected by the subscribers and three admitted by purchase. The average number of the children in the asylum during the year was 100. The report of the examiner to the schools, the Rev. James Hill, expressed in strong terms the improvement in the schools both of the boys and girls, and stated that they never presented more unequivocal signs of general good health. Their industrial training kept pace with their literary progress; while their cheerfulness, their fondness for voluntary exercises, and the good feeling subsisting between the instructors and instructed, and among the pupils themselves, was highly gratifying. The receipts during the year amounted to 2,835*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, and the disbursements to 2,482*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 352*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

The annual general meeting of the governors of the *Charing Cross Hospital* was held on the 20th. The report of the committee gave a very favourable account of the progress of the institution during the year. The number of patients had been 17,995; of these 1200 were in-patients. The number of accidents admitted during the year was 2238. Of the total number of patients, 16,498 had been cured or relieved; 57 had died; and 240 were under treatment. 204,858 patients had been treated since the opening of the institution. The funds received during the year amounted to 3,554*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, including a former balance of 318*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure had amounted to 2,490*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a considerable balance. The committee were very anxious to complete the upper portion of the building, which still remains unfinished, and for that purpose had opened a separate building fund, the total amount of which was at present 1,751*l.* As soon as this desirable end should be accomplished they would have 50 more beds at their disposal, and would be enabled to accommodate from 500 to 600 more patients yearly.

Mr. Mechi, the spirited agricultural improver, had his *Annual Gathering* at his farm, Tiptree Hall, on the 21st inst. The company numbered above 300; among whom were Earl Porteseue, Viscount Ebrington, his Excellency Abbott Laurence, American Ambassador; Baron Bentinck, Netherlands Minister; Col. T. B. Lawrence, Le Viscomte Curzay, the Hon. J. L. White, and H. S. Routh, Esq., Commissioners from the United States; Sir James Duke, Bart., M.P.; Sir E. E. Baker, Bart., Sir J. P. Wood, Bart., Sir Thomas Tancred, Bart., C. Du Cane, Esq., M.P., R. Greaves, Esq., M.P., Sir A. Macdonald, Bart., Professor Henslowe, Professor

Way, Professor Simonds, Professor Morton, Rev. Thomas Henderson, Edwin Chadwick, Esq., Board of Health; W. Lee, Esq., Board of Health; Mr. Appold, inventor of the centrifugal pump; Mr. Fowler, inventor of the draining plough; W. Fisher Hobbs, Esq., C. Knight, Esq.; and other gentlemen of eminence in science, literature, and the arts. After a slight collation, the company proceeded to inspect the farm, the growing crops, and especially the new process of irrigation, from which such fertilising effects are anticipated. The general results of this examination may thus be briefly summed up. On a small farm of 170 acres, the soil of which was originally poor, cold, and wet, Mr. Mechi has displayed the power of drainage, high manuring, and elaborate cultivation, to produce a degree of fertility scarcely surpassed and rarely equalled, even on our most naturally fertile soils. His land has been well drained and subsoiled, or otherwise cultivated to greater than ordinary depths; trees and fences have been entirely cleared away, so that there is no waste of ground and nothing to impede the free access of sun and air to the soil; all his stock—with the exception of sheep during summer which are folded on the land,—his innumerable pigs and numerous cattle, are constantly kept in sheds, the floors of which are boarded, with spaces for manure to fall into spaces underneath; and from each shed pipes are laid to communicate with an immense liquid manure tank. All the manure is from time to time washed into the tank by means of flushings of water directed by a hose, and forced by the pressure of the steam engine. All the straw grown on the farm is cut up into chaff for food, and is steamed for the purpose. A large reservoir, or small lake, formed to receive the drainage of the land, affords the means of diluting the strong manure in the tank, which would otherwise be too powerful for vegetable life; and finally, this liquid manure is carried, through iron pipes laid down all over the farm, to such of the fields as may require to undergo the manuring process. Having minutely examined every object of interest, the company repaired to the most extensive of the out-offices, which had been fitted up as a banqueting hall, and tastefully decorated with laurels and evergreens, besides an abundance of ornaments of a more substantial character. Mr. Mechi himself presided, with the Earl Fortescue in the vice-chair, and near the chairman were the American minister, and Messrs. White and Routh, both from the United States, Lord Ebrington, and others of the more distinguished guests. The American Minister, in a pleasant and cordial speech, mentioned the probable accomplishment of the projected route across the Isthmus of Darien. It might be thought (he said), that the Isthmus route had little to do with agriculture, but his belief was, that everything which favoured the communion of the Anglo-Saxon race, was a benefit to every class in the world.—Lord Ebrington and Mr. Chadwick dwelt upon the importance of Mr. Mechi's plan for drawing off the sewage of great cities, as an aid to the great cause of sanitary reform.—Earl FORTESCUE, amid loud cheers, gave the health of the chairman. He said he could well remember the time when Mr. Mechi was ridiculed as a quack, or mentioned as a well-meaning enthusiast, but now things assumed a different aspect, and even the good man who had driven them over that day could say "there is great improvement in the county since Mr. Mechi came amongst us." He trusted that Mr. Mechi would live long to enjoy his success, and to bring to perfection his ingenious system of cultivation.—Mr. MECHE, in returning thanks, said he had been often told he was wrong, but he hoped and believed he was right, and he thought all who with him had travelled to Lewes would be prepared to admit that improvement was not quite unnecessary in farming operations. He expected much from the application of liquid manure and improvements in draining; but the farmers, before draining their lands, must begin by draining their heads. They must endeavour to get rid of prejudice, and recollect how long prejudice had retarded the admission of railroads into their district. He had firm faith that a hundred years hence, long after he had become a huge turnip or a gigantic cabbage—they would find that his principles were sound, and his system an improvement. Having

dwelt at some length on the advantages of sewage manure, Mr. Mechi complained of the backwardness of his neighbours in promoting education. A parish of 5000 acres had only contributed 15*l.* a-year, being a rate of about three-farthings a head. But all these obstacles would disappear before the force of public opinion, and farmers would become as intelligent and enterprising as their neighbours, if they could only once get rid of the cumbrous machinery which interfered with the transfer of land. If he wanted to sell them a razor, how would they like to have to inquire who had owned that razor twenty years ago? and yet that was the process they must go through before obtaining a single acre of land. If they followed his plan, the ox which went up to market on Monday would be back with them again in manure before Friday, but to appreciate and attain these results there must be more education among the farmers. He was happy to say that the college at Cirencester was getting on well, but was sorry to be obliged to add that there was not a single farmer's son among the pupils. During the whole of this address Mr. Mechi was warmly cheered. On the health of the "foreign visitors" being given, Mr. WHITE, one of the commissioners from the United States, was called upon to return thanks, and obeyed the call, though he did not know (he said) why he should be called a foreigner. The first white child that was born in New England, in February, 1620, was his ancestor, and therefore he claimed a share in that mixed Norman and Saxon blood of which he was so justly proud. As an American, he was proud of his noble country—her mighty rivers, and her vast forests; but he was also proud of his Saxon ancestry, and that community of laws, institutions, and sympathies which naturally existed between England and the United States. If any attempt were made on the liberties of England by the despotisms of the continent that sympathy would soon be proved. Several other toasts and speeches brought to a close this pleasant and important meeting.

The *New Metropolitan Burial Act*, which became operative on the 1st instant, when it received the royal assent, contains fifty-four clauses. It is entitled "An Act to amend the laws concerning the Burial of the Dead in the Metropolis," and was passed in consequence of the "failure of the Metropolitan Interments Act, 1850," which it repeals. It is now provided that on the representation of the secretary of state, her Majesty in council may order the discontinuance of burials in any part of the metropolis, which order is not to extend to the burial-grounds of Quakers or Jews, unless expressly included. After such an order in council for discontinuance of burials, it is to be deemed a misdemeanour to bury therein. There is a saving of certain rights to bury in vaults, &c., and also as to cemeteries mentioned in the schedule annexed to the act, and in new burial-grounds or cemeteries hereafter to be provided with the approbation of the secretary of state. There is an exception to St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. No new burial-ground or cemetery (parochial or non-parochial) is to be provided and used in the metropolis, or within two miles of any part thereof, without the previous approval of the secretary of state. In any parish in the metropolis, on the requisition of ten or more rate-payers, that the place of burial is "insufficient or dangerous to health," a vestry may be called to determine whether a burial-ground shall be provided under this act; and if agreed upon, then a "burial-ground" is to be formed to carry out this act, and to act in the manner prescribed by the several clauses for the benefit of the public concerning the burial of the dead.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE QUEEN, Prince Albert, and the royal family, embarked at Cowes on Monday morning the 19th, on board the Victoria and Albert steam-yacht for a cruise. The royal party visited Dartmouth, Totnes, Ashburton, and Princetown, Plymouth, and Mount Edgcumbe; and returned to Osborne on Thursday evening.

The royal family left Buckingham Palace for Osborne on the 3d inst.

The *Anniversary of the Queen's coronation*, on the 28th of June, was celebrated at Southampton by a general holiday: thousands of people went on excursions to London, to the New Forest, and to the Isle of Wight; there were matches at cricket and shooting; five hundred persons came on a visit from Dorchester; and a large number of "Foresters," a widely ramified benefit society, walked in procession, and then dined together, the mayor and the members for the town being among their guests.

The Princess Gauromma, the daughter of Prince Vere Rajunder, late Rajah of Coorg, was *Baptised* by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the private Chapel of Buckingham Palace on the 30th of June. Her Majesty stood sponsor for the young princess, and has accepted the responsibility of her christian education in this country.

Bishops Selwyn and Tyrrell have had a marvellous escape from murder in New Zealand. It appears that the two prelates were on a visit to one of the Polynesian islands, when they were set upon by the natives, and, becoming separated, were in the greatest possible danger. They and their crews were surrounded by the natives, who were full of ferocity and who were eventually subdued by moral resolution rather than by physical strength.

Dr. Paul Cullen was installed in the dignity of *Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin* on the 29th of June. No fewer than sixteen Roman Catholic prelates, including Dr. M'Hale, assisted at the ceremony.

Mr. Gladstone, who has accepted the pastorate of a Free Episcopal Chapel at St. Mary's Torquay, has been prevented from preaching there by a monition from the ecclesiastical court.

Kossuth has arrived in England from the United

States. He had taken berths in the Africa steamer from New York, for himself and Madame Kossuth, under the name of A. Smith and lady. He threw off his *incognito* before the passage had been completed. He was accompanied by Count Colonel Blethen and Colonel Ihaz, who also secured passages in assumed names.

The Benchers of Lincoln's Inn have appointed William L. Birkbeck, Esq., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, to the Readership in Equity instituted under the new arrangements for legal education.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

LORD ABERCROMBY died suddenly at Airthrey Chase, on the 25th ult. He was born in 1800, and succeeded his father, the late Lord Abercromby, in 1843.

COUNT MENDSORFF-POULLY died at Vienna on the evening of the 28th ult, in his 76th year. Count Mendsorff had married the eldest sister of the late Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, the Duchess of Kent, and the King of the Belgians, and was consequently a maternal uncle of her Majesty and paternal uncle to Prince Albert.

LADY DENHAM died at Parslowes, Essex, on the 28th of June aged 79.

HENRY CLAY, the celebrated American statesman, died on the 29th ult, in his 75th year.

MARSHAL EXCELMANS died on the 21st inst., in consequence of a fall from his horse on the Sèvres road, in the neighbourhood of Paris.

MR. THOMAS GIBBERNE died at his residence, Yoxhall Lodge, in Staffordshire, on the 20th inst.

BARON DE LAXMOSORFF, the celebrated botanist, died at Frieberg in the Grand Duchy of Baden, in his 78th year.

W. SCROPE, Esq., author of "Days of Deer Stalking" and "Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing," died on Tuesday last, at his house in Belgrave-square, in the 81st year of his age.

MR. JOHN DUNCUFF, who had just been returned for Oldham, died there on the 27th ult.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE *Overland Mail* has brought advices from Madras to the 10th of June. The accounts from Rangoon are to the 26th of May. On the 17th of May, four of our war-steamers started from Rangoon for Bassein, the chief port on the westernmost branch of the Irawaddy, to capture that place. A force of 400 of the Queen's 51st Regiment, 300 of the 9th Native Madras Infantry, 60 Sappers and Miners, and a number of Marines, was landed at Bassein on the 19th. The place was defended by 4000 Burmese troops and 2000 armed men of Bassein, fighting behind stockades well mounted with artillery. After a brief parley, the place was tremendously battered by the guns of the steamers and then taken by storm. The defence was bravely made. We lost three men killed, and had seven officers and 24 men wounded. The officers wounded were—Captain Rice, very severely; Lieutenants George Rice, Carter, and Ansley, severely; and Major Errington, Captain Darrock, and Lieutenant John Elliott, slightly. The enemy lost 800 killed. It is said that "a fair-faced dark-whiskered man" was plainly seen on the works directing the artillery; but whether he was an European or Armenian could not be discerned. The health of the troops was greatly improved.

The advices from the *West Indies* come down to the end of last month. Almost all the islands have been suffering from long-continued drought. Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Anguilla, and Curaçoa, have suffered from the want of water. In Antigua the drought continues in all its severity, and great distress has begun to be felt for want of water for domestic purposes. The crops are suffering greatly from the drought, and the cattle on many estates are dying for want of water.

In St. Kitts the want of water for domestic purposes had begun to be felt in the town of Basseterre and at Sandy Point. Every cistern in the town, with the exception of one in the jail, was dry.

In Saint Lucia the drought continued very severe. The sugar crop, which is being manufactured, has not

suffered much from this protracted drought, though the want of water is felt in several districts to retard the operations of the mills; but it is feared that the consequences will be much to the prejudice of the next crop.

In Anguilla the drought which had prevailed for several months had reduced the poorer classes of the inhabitants to a state of absolute destitution and misery. The people were absolutely dying from want. A boat-load or more of flour and corn-meal had been forwarded from St. Christopher's for their relief.

A fearful conflagration occurred at *Montreal* on the 9th instant. The flames raged for two days, and destroyed about 1200 houses. The loss is estimated at one million sterling. The provincial government has placed the sum of 2500*l.* at the disposal of the relief committee for the immediate relief of the sufferers, and private subscriptions in their aid had commenced.

The advices from the *Cape of Good Hope* bring intelligence from the war frontier to the end of May. General Cathcart had removed his head-quarters from King William's Town to Fort Beaufort, towards a line connecting the Waterkloof and Amatola mountains; and he was so arranging his forces as to form a connected chain of columns across the whole territory, which he had announced his intention to clear of the enemy by driving the Caffres beyond the Kei, and banishing them from the colony for ever. This scheme, however, appeared difficult to carry out; for the Caffres had slipped through the links of the chain in several places, and in one instance had been discovered in alarming numbers camped in the Kowie bush close to Graham's Town. In several places single herdsmen, and even small weak parties, had been cut off, or attacked and roughly handled by the Caffres. Governor Cathcart had not, however, completely organised his plans. He was endeavouring to levy a force of Burghers to act as

scouring-parties within his cordon; and was offering the pay of 5s. a day for privates and 7s. 6d. a day for officers.

By the overland Indian mail there is intelligence from the *Australian Colonies* to the middle of April—from Port Philip to the 17th. The gold-finding reports continue very favourable, and the extent of the produce was daily increasing, new spots being constantly discovered of extraordinary richness in various directions. The produce of gold for the Victoria district for five months is given at 653,270 ounces, or about 2,600,000*l.* money value; and the exported produce of the Bathurst and Turon districts to the 20th March was 1,125,317 ounces, or value 4,500,000*l.*; in all, about seven millions sterling.

At a time when all letters from Australia are eagerly read, perhaps the following copy of one received from a lad sent out from the Union Mews Ragged School, in 1850, may not prove uninteresting:—

"Melbourne, March 5, 1852.—Dear Father,—Enclosed is a bill of lading of one small box of gold dust, which I send you as a present per Benjamin Heape. I have written you at length by other vessel, and send this in case it may be lost. You will receive the box on board the B. Heape from Captain Hodgson, or at the ship's agents.—J. M."

The bill of lading states the box to contain 24 ounces of gold dust. In a letter lately received from him dated December 16, he mentioned his intention of proceeding to the diggings after Christmas; consequently this must be a portion of the "first-fruits" of his industry.

Accounts have been received of the wreck of the Isabella Watson, passenger-ship to Port Philip, which sailed from Plymouth on the 3rd of December last. She was lost off Point Nepean, at the entrance of Port Philip leads, and we regret to say that the following lives were lost:—Mrs. Derriek, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Langford, Mrs. Orphelt, all young married women; Miss Allen, Miss Patterson, Mr. Orphelt, and Mr. Langford in endeavouring to save his wife. The captain was saved with difficulty.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

A Parliamentary paper has been printed respecting *Emigration to New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia*. For seven months, ending the 30th of April, the number of vessels that sailed to New South Wales (both unassisted and ungoverned ships) was 27, the aggregate tonnage of which was 18,605, and the number of emigrants 4583. In the like period of the preceding year the number of vessels was only five, the tonnage of which was 3425, and the number of emigrants 852. The available balance in the hands of the Emigration Commissioners for New South Wales on the 30th of May was about 61,000*l.* For Victoria 27 vessels sailed in the seven months ending the 30th of April last. The tonnage was 18,840, and the number of emigrants 7634. In the like period of the preceding year the number of vessels was 11, of 10,541 tonnage, and the number of emigrants 1941. The available balance for emigration was 127,200*l.* For South Australia 19 vessels sailed in the seven months ending the 30th of April last, of 11,127 tonnage, and the numbers of emigrants was 3822. In the like period of the preceding year the number was 17, of 12,310 tonnage, and the number of emigrants 2833. There are two letters in the document to the Colonial Office from Captain Stanley Carr, Chair-

man of the Committee of Australian Colonists, urging extensive emigration.

From a late report of the Emigration Commissioners, it appears that 103,216 persons emigrated in the first four months of the present year from the twelve principal ports in the United Kingdom. In the corresponding period of 1851 the number was 103,551.

From official returns, just published, it appears that the *Irish Emigration* in ten years (1841 to 1851) numbered 1,289,133 persons. The decrease in the population of Ireland between 1841 and 1851 was 1,659,330.

The government of Holland has sent notes to all the German governments informing them that they are ready to grant peculiar facilities to German emigrants disposed to settle in Surinam.

Mr. Ellis, the well-known caterer for public amusement at Cremorne Gardens, the Flora Gardens, and other places of entertainment, has just sailed from Plymouth in the Coldstream, for Port Philip. Mr. Ellis takes with him scenery, properties, and the necessary adjuncts for a portable theatre, to be erected at the diggings, a complete band of musicians, and a Thespian company. Mr. Ellis proposes to introduce casinos into Geelong and Melbourne, and thus combine pleasure with gold-seeking.

A meeting of intending emigrants to Australia, under Mrs. Chisholm's Plan, was held on the evening of the 26th, at the British Institution, in Cowper-street, City-road. Mrs. Chisholm addressed the meeting. She said as there were a number of females present, she would call attention to the necessity of not uselessly expending money in outfits. In all the books in which outfits were spoken of, people were advised to prepare themselves for hot and cold weather, but she was anxious to do away with the mystery about these outfits, whereby money was expended which might be carefully preserved against landing in the colony. For a female, two gowns were sufficient for a voyage. She wished to caution them against wearing thin shoes in the morning and evening, when the deck of the vessel was more or less damp, and diarrhoea frequently resulted from cold feet. After entering into some necessary and minute details, she said the ship Chalmers would leave the London Docks on Sunday, immediately after divine service had been performed on board. Another ship was about to proceed from Southampton, and another from Cork, being the first that would sail from Ireland in connexion with this system of emigration. She approved of the plan of small remittances being sent home, and she hoped soon to see the English emulate the Irish in aiding their relations to emigrate. After further observing that she would closely follow her plan of watching over the comforts of the ships, Mrs. Chisholm took leave of the meeting amidst much applause.—Mr. Sydney afterwards addressed the meeting, which then adjourned.

The mania for emigration to the gold mines of Australia is most prevalent in South Wales. From Neath a number of persons have taken their departure, and an increasing number are preparing to follow their example. At Pontypridd, likewise, a number of hardy young men are about to seek their fortunes at the Antipodes; and from Laugharne and St. Clears, many farm labourers have quitted their homes for the diggings. Large parties will soon leave the more populous towns, such as Swansea, Carmarthen, &c., in addition to the persons who have already left. Hitherto, the exodus has been to a large extent to the United States; but the current has now been turned to Australia.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE session of the *French Legislative Assembly* was closed on the 28th of June, with a message from the President. He thanked them for the loyal co-operation and support they had given to the new institutions, and said that "the first trial of a constitution completely of French origin must have convinced them that they possessed the conditions of a free and strong government:—

"On returning to your departments, be the faithful echoes of the sentiment that predominates here—confidence in reconciliation and peace. Tell your constituents that in Paris, the

heart of France—that revolutionary centre which senters over the world alternate light or conflagration—you have seen an immense population labouring to efface the traces of revolutions, and joyously applying themselves to industry with confidence in the future. Those who so recently, in their madness, were impatient of all restraint, you have heard saluting with acclamation the restoration of our eagles, the symbols of authority and of glory. At that imposing spectacle, where religion consecrated with her benediction a great national festivity, you have remarked their respectful attitude. You have seen that proud army which has saved its country rise still higher in the esteem of men, and kneeling in devotion before the image of God, presented from the summit of His

altar. The meaning of this is, that there exists in France a government animated with the faith and the love of good, which reposes on the people, the source of all power, on the army, the source of all force—and on religion, the source of all justice."

The property of Villeneuve, near St. Cloud, has been recently purchased for 41,000*l.* for the President. This estate is said to be destined for the English lady who accompanied him to France.

The French President left Paris on Saturday morning, the 17th, to celebrate the opening of the Strasburg Railway. He arrived at Strasburg on Sunday at noon. A salute of a hundred and one guns was fired on his arrival. He was met by the authorities, and the keys were given up to him. The bishop then performed divine service in a large pavilion near the station; blessing the railroad and the locomotives. Thence M. Bonaparte proceeded to the Prefecture, well guarded by soldiers. The population filed past him; and, in the evening, Strasburg was in a blaze with variegated lamps, Bengal lights, and fireworks of all kinds. On Monday morning, he reviewed the troops. The bridge was thrown over the Rhine, and the President, accompanied by the envoys of Prussia, Baden, Wurtemberg, Hesse, and Switzerland, passed over to Kehl; where he reviewed the garrison of Baden. Having returned to Strasburg, he set out on Tuesday for Baden-Baden. After he had crossed the frontier he refused a military escort.

The Grand Duchess Stephanie of Baden, having shared in the festivities of Strasburg, returned to her territories with Louis Napoleon. It is rumoured that the main object of the President's visit to Baden-Baden was to see a fair relative, who might possibly some day become his wife. The lady is a daughter of Prince Gustave de Vasa, now an officer in the Austrian army, and granddaughter—by her mother—to the Duchess of Baden: her name is Stephanie de Vasa.

The accounts of the President's reception at Strasburg, and at all the places on his route, being all derived from official sources, are of course *couleur de rose*. The feeling excited by his presence is described as unmingled enthusiasm. He took his usual means of gaining popularity—making telling speeches, attending fêtes and balls, and dancing quadrilles with the wives and daughters of his prefects and other officials. It is curious to note by what stealthy degrees he approaches the summit of his ambition. At Nancy his chair was starred with the imperial bee; at Strasburg he adopted, for the first time, the white breeches and jack-boots, which formed an invariable feature of the emperor's military costume. He returned to Paris on the evening of Friday the 21th. The correspondent of the "Daily News" describes his reception as being exceedingly cold.

An event worth attention, as showing the lengths to which the present government is prepared to go to curry favour with the priesthood, has just occurred in La Vendée. The family of a person lately deceased, who was one of the only three Protestants in the parish, desired to bury him in the Catholic cemetery. The parish-priest opposed this, but the mayor supported the family and appealed to the prefect, who decided that the interment should take place in the consecrated ground. As soon as these facts came to the knowledge of M. Fortoul, the Minister of Public Instruction and Worship, he sent down orders that the heretic's body should be exhumed and removed out of the holy precincts. This has been done to the great delight of the bigoted inhabitants of La Vendée, with whom the government will doubtless gain much popularity in consequence.

The anniversary of the taking of the Bastille on the 14th of July, was this year celebrated by the deposit of a single crown on the railings of the column of July. This solitary homage to a day so often commemorated by countless thousands on the same spot, was performed by a lady elegantly dressed. The crown was instantly taken away, and the lady with her husband arrested.

The accounts from Italy contain particulars respecting the system of wholesale arrest now going on in Lombardy. A letter, dated Milan, July 3, states that

it has been ascertained that the body of Signor Pezzotti, who was found strangled in a Milanese dungeon immediately after his arrest, was instantly cut open, with a view to get possession of some papers which he had swallowed at the moment of his arrest. It is said, too, that the tale of his having strangled himself is a mere invention to conceal the fact that he was assassinated.

Arrests continue at Brescia, Pavia, Cremona. At Cremona one Antonio Binda, a landed proprietor, has been arrested along with others. To those arrested at Mantua has to be added the name of Count Arrivabene.

At Venice many deplorable arrests have been made—Scargellini, Canal Zambelli, Ferracini, and others. Here, as at Mantua, the arrests have been made in succession, this being an old trick of the Austrian police, to induce the imprisoned to believe that they have been denounced by their previously arrested companions, and so to spread abroad through the liberal part of society the suspicion of mutual treachery.

Altogether at Mantua the arrests hitherto known exceed one hundred; at Venice there have been in all eighteen; in the other towns the numbers are proportionate.

The Emperor of Austria is making a tour through his Hungarian dominions. On the 11th he was at Buda-Pesth; and, accompanied by forty generals, among whom was Ban Jellachich, he inaugurated an iron monument to Hlenzi, who was killed defending the fortress from the Hungarians under Görgey. Medals were distributed to the soldiers engaged in the defence. On the 13th the emperor left Buda for Semlin.—One incident, which is related as having occurred before he reached Pesth, throws some light on the internal state of Hungary:—"In Stuhlweissenburg, it is said, the violence of an officer—a general—completely scared the people. On the arrival of the monarch, the country-folks, who had assembled from all parts, were so intent on getting a good sight of a real emperor, that they forgot to doff their hats, until a hint from the obergespann reminded them of what was proper. In the principal Place the same thing occurred; but instead of employing his tongue, the before-mentioned officer used his sword, with which he knocked off the hats of the gaping Magyars. This specimen of military tactics put an end to the 'Elgens' at once."

The important intelligence has been received from Brussels that a convention has been concluded between the Belgian and Dutch governments for the amalgamation of the railways of the two countries. The great trunk line beginning at Antwerp will be continued to Rotterdam, and so be put into communication with the whole of the Netherlands. It is stated, upon good authority, that the Bavarian government has engaged to pay 1,400,000 florins to the administration of the Palatinate Railway on condition that the latter shall undertake to execute the works on the line from Ludwigshafen to Wissemburg speedily. This is the point to which the Strasburg Railway is to be continued beyond the French frontier.

In the Roman States great resistance is offered to the tax-gatherers; and conflicts between the bailiffs and the people are not uncommon. It was rumoured at Rome, that about 2000 men, infantry, cavalry, and artillery, forming part of the French force in Rome, will be sent home in August; and that a proportionate force of Austrians will evacuate the Roman States at the same time.

M. Thiers has been ordered by the Swiss Federal Government to leave his residence at Vevey, and either convey himself into the interior or leave the canton. M. Thiers preferred the latter, and on the 2nd instant was about to quit Switzerland altogether, for Florence. This measure, prompted by the representations of the French envoy at Berne, is deemed the retaliation of President Bonaparte for his own extrusion from Switzerland, at the demand of M. Thiers, as foreign minister of France under Louis Philippe.

There are advices from *New York* to the 10th instant. Henry Clay, the great American statesman, died at Washington on the 29th of June, at the age of 75. As soon as his death was announced to Congress, both houses adjourned. On the 1st of July a grand and solemn funeral service was performed over the remains at Washington; at which the President of the Union, the Ministers, all the members of Congress, and a concourse of other American worthies, participated. After the obsequies, the corpse was removed in state to Baltimore, and thence to New York, on the way to its final resting-place at Lexington in Kentucky. The authorities of Baltimore and New York, and the citizens of those towns en masse, went out to meet the cortege. A terrible calamity had occurred on the 5th inst. at Staten Island, by the giving way of the Ferry Bridge, and 159 persons were precipitated into the river, about 25 of whom were drowned. On the 4th, a fatal affray took place at Hoboken between two sets of waiters, one set white, the other coloured. The whites were Irishmen; one of the coloured men was killed in the encounter, and some severe wounds inflicted on both

sides. Several deaths had occurred in New York from sun-stroke, and the weather had been intensely sultry. In the southern states, the whigs have declined to sanction the nomination of General Scott for the presidency, and fresh opposition continues to pour in every day from the slave states. In the House of Representatives a bill had been reported authorising the postmaster-general to contract for the transportation of mails twice in the month, in first-class steamers, between New York and Galway; the sum to be paid not to exceed 10,000 dols. the round trip. An extensive fire occurred at Boston on the 10th instant, which destroyed property to the amount of half a million dollars.

Accounts from the *Florannah* state that a conspiracy of 39 young men of that place had been discovered. Eight of them had been condemned to death and executed. The conspirators had freighted a vessel, with the intention of joining, either at sea or in an American port, the adventurers who are said to contemplate another descent on Cuba.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE remark was made in last month's "Narrative," that the publishing world could hardly at any time have been so dull as in the month then immediately preceding. But, as Dryden said of his friend Durfey that vast as was his reputation for dulness his powers were quite underrated, and that nobody yet knew how far he could go in that direction, so it is now to be said of the world of books. The month of July 1852 may hereafter be not only remembered as that of the famous general election when the Protectionists all swallowed the big loaf of Free Trade, but also as the month when the sum of the contributions made to general literature by all the great metropolitan publishing houses, consisted of nothing more worthy of mention than two novels, neither of them natively grown, two biographies, neither of them likely to outlive the year, and a single volume of very earnest politics and more than doubtful political economy.

Such is literally the case. "Leather and prunella" would be a too exalted description for the rest of the month's literature, mainly consisting as it does of entirely unimportant pamphlets and tracts that may never hope to aspire to the dignity of calf or sheepskin. We do not know that exception may be made for even the bulky collection of *Reports of the Juries* of the Great Exhibition on the award of the several medals and certificates. As a set-off to such lack of performance, however, we have a magnificent promise to record. Mr. Halliwell has announced a new edition of *Shakespeare* to be contained in twenty folios, each of the same size as that single folio of Fleming and Condell which for two hundred years and upward has managed to keep the poet's fame tolerably lively and flourishing. It may be doubted if the twenty folios are likely to do more.

Woman's Life and *The Blithedale Romance* are the two novels to which allusion has been made. The first a translation from the Swedish, the second an importation from America; the design of the first, to depict those frailties and trials of the heart and temper which are common to all countries, and have lasted as long as the old world; that of the second, to show the folly or trying to build a new world with no better materials to set it or keep it going than those very frailties aforesaid. Both are well-written stories. The *Life of Lord Langdale* by Mr. Duffus Hardy, is in bulk as disproportionate to the demands of the subject as the expectations once formed of the hero of the book transcended what was actually achieved by him. But it is a conscientiously written biography, containing among other things curious evidence of the petty motives that so often frustrate great designs in the affairs of public life. The late Lord Cottenham makes a poor figure in its revelations as to law reform, and it is to be wished that even Lord Brougham figured better than he does in the same field. The other

biography is a *Life of the Rev. Wm. Kirby*, the delightful naturalist, who deserved an easier biographer. Mr. Freeman is full of good intentions, and a sensible grave admiration, but he sits rather heavily on his friend. The book of *Political Economy*, which is by Mr. Lalor, under the title of *Money and Morals* deals with several unsettled questions of financial science, always earnestly if not always so successfully. The most heterodox of Mr. Lalor's economical views have been propounded before, but he brings much novel and forcible illustration in aid of them, and the volume deserves attention.

As for the rest of the publications of the past month, they are really not worth the space which it would take to transcribe their titles. Where they are not new editions (as the neat little *Poems of Coleridge*, which Mr. Moxon has issued; the handsome volume of Messrs. Black's *Waverley Novels*; Mr. Knight's re-issue of his *Imperial Cyclopædia*; Doctor Forbes's *Physician's Holiday*; Mr. Moultrie's republication of poor Sydney Walker's *Poems*, to which is prefixed a slight but not uninteresting Memoir; Mr. Bohn's excellent addition of *Miss Bremer's Works*, *Neander's Memorials*, and Kirby's *Bridgewater Treatises*, to his Standard and Scientific Libraries; Hazlitt's republished *Life of Napoleon*; a cheap and careful revision of Webster's *Dictionary*; and a new translation of Madame Guizot's *Moral Tales*;) they are pamphlets on subjects of little or no interest, or they are waifs and strays of volumes that nobody should care to own, and that should be therefore permitted to pass out of the world as they have entered it, in obscurity and silence.

The last concert of the Philharmonic Society took place on the 28th of June. The season has been highly successful.

The Sacred Harmonic Society have also terminated a very successful season. On the 5th inst., Spohr's celebrated oratorio, *Calvary*, was performed at Exeter Hall under the personal direction of the composer. The society has published a report for the year 1851, from which it appears that the 31 concerts of that year produced upwards of 9000*l.* and that the ordinary expenses connected with them were nearly 7000*l.* Including subscriptions, the gross receipts of the year exceeded 10,000*l.* Exeter Hall is now closed for alterations and re-decoration; and important improvements are to be made in the organ, which will be entirely reconstructed.

Spohr's opera, *Faust*, was produced at the Royal Italian opera on the 15th under the composer's own direction. In order to adapt it to the Italian stage, the dialogue, originally spoken, was converted into recitative, the music of which was written by Spohr himself.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the *London Gazette* of June 29th.—R. LEBON and E. C. CURTIS, Stratford, builders.—J. WHITTAKER, Park-place, Mile-end-road, draper.—H. MORSEY, Union-street east, Bishopsgate, ironmonger.—M. WARD, Mark-lane, corn-merchant.—J. B. DAWE, Witlem's-buildings, Old-street-road, carpenter.—W. DOWLING, Leicester, grocer.—F. HOLROYD, Leeds, twine-spinner.—A. ATKINSON, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire, tanner.

July 2nd.—G. W. WALTER and W. H. WALKER, Keele, Staffordshire, throwsters.—J. MOTTRAM, Shrewsbury, hop-merchant.—R. PERRY, Leeds, hatter.—G. STANDERWICK and Co, Bristol, auctioneers.

July 5th.—J. ROBINSON, Nassau-place, Commercial-road, east, clothier.—J. BLACK, Bucklersbury, wine-merchant.—S. KNIGHT, Fore-street, Cripple-gate, cheesemonger.—E. PALMER, Ware, maltster.—A. CORKE, Oswestry, watchmaker.—B. FISHER, Gloucester, currier.—J. R. BASKETT, Cardiff, corn-factor.

July 9th.—T. W. RICHARDS, Goswell-road, linen-draper.—W. SCOTT, Percival-street, Clerkenwell, clockmaker.—J. PERRY and W. K. BROADHURST, Fenton, Stoke-upon-Trent, earthenware manufacturers.—H. JACKMAN, Birmingham, builder.—C. BELTON, Birmingham, chemist.—A. HASWELL, Bath, milliner.—G. SMITH, Leeds, flax-spinner.—J. W. SPIVEY, Iluddeston, cloth-merchant.—R. PACE, sen., Liverpool, shipowner.—J. TIMOTHY, Liverpool, flour-dealer.—J. HARRIS, Liverpool, jeweller.—S. PADGET, Preston, draper.

July 13th.—C. E. BINGHAM, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, printer.—S. MITCHELL, Steney-gate, bootmaker.—G. E. HIRST, Halifax, cloth-merchant.—R. P. STEPHENS, Liverpool, shipowner.—J. BUCK, Manchester, engraver.

July 16th.—J. STEEBER, Brighton, corn-merchant.—J. H. MORRIS, King William-street, Strand, manufacturer of india-rubber pavement.—J. W. EDWARDS, Marchmont-street, Brunswick-square, cheesemonger.—R. P. STEVENS, Liverpool, shipowner.—W. NICHOLSON, Shotley-bridge, Durham, timber-merchant.—J. WILSON, Gateshead, coach-proprietor.

July 20th.—T. MEESON, Fenchurch-street, coal-merchant.—S. POUNCEBY, High-street, Shadwell, stationer.—D. M. FORD, Lawrence-lane, currier.—T. BROOKS, Lye, Stourbridge, nail-manufacturer.—J. HAYMAN, Carbeale, Mills, Torpoint, Cornwall, miller.—G. ASHBURKE, Bolton-le-moors, ironmonger.

July 23rd.—G. CLARK, Old-street, draper.—H. GURNEY, Pitfield-street, Hoxton, victualler.—H. ADDIS and Co, Gloucester, vinegar-manufacturers.—C. ROGERS, Camborne, Cornwall, draper.—T. LISTER, jun., Long Preston, cotton-spinner.—J. RAMOLDI, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, toyman.

July 27th.—M. BRANSOR, Stratford, Essex, stationer.—W. BULMAN, Birmingham, brickmaker.—J. B. DAVIS, Liverpool, provision-merchant.—D. GINSON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer.—J. LEE, Brooks-mews, Gloucester-place, Paddington, cab proprietor.—J. SWIFT, Staveley, Derbyshire, grocer.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

July 5th.—J. SOVERBY, Oxford-street, silk-mercer.

July 13th.—FENTON, Coventry-street, Haymarket, stationer.

July 16th.—J. CHALLEN, Brixton, brewer.

July 20th.—S. HORTON, Carlton-road, Asylum-road, Old Kent road, builder.

MONEY MARKET.

The Public Securities during the month have continued steady, the average value of all of them being something above that of last month. And the same thing is the case with Railway and other Shares.

STOCKS.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	101	100½	100½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	101	100½	101
Three and a quarter per Cents. .	105½	104½	105½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 . . .	6½	6¼	6½
Bank Stock	232	22½	232
Exchequer Bills	73	69	73
India Bonds, £1000	94	88pm	94

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Brazilian 5 per cent., 101½	Peruvian 6 per cent., 103
Chilian 6 per cent., 106½	Portuguese 4 per cent., 37½
Danish 5 per cent., 107½	Russian 4½ per cent., 103½
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 91½	Spanish 3 per cent., 49½
Mexican 3 per cent., 25½	Sardinian, 94½

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	110½	107½	107½
all	Blackwall	8½	8½	8½
St. 100	Caledonian	46½	42½	42½
all	Eastern Counties	11½	10½	10½
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow .	72	65½	67½
all	Great Northern	90½	85	85
St. 100	Great Western	106½	98½	103½
" 100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	87½	83½	84
" 100	London & North-Western	134	130½	132½
" 100	Midland	79½	73½	77½
" 100	North British	36½	33	33
" 100	South-Eastern and Dover.	77½	73½	74½
" 100	South-Western	102	97	97
" 100	York, Newc., and Berwick	78½	75	74½
" 100	York and North Midland .	64½	52½	52½

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Rouen, 36½
East Indian, 27½	Paris and Strasbourg, 24½
Namur and Liege, 6½	Rouen and Havre, 14
Northern of France, 25½	Tours and Nantes, 13½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 41s.; Barley, 27s.; Oats, 19s. 11d.; Rye, 30s. 1d.; Beans, 34s. 5d.; Peas, 30s. 11d.; Flour (town made), delivered, 40s. to 43s.; American barrel of 280 lb., 19s. to 22s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., sides, 50s. to 65s.; middles, 50s. to 54s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 60s. to 66s.; Irish, 68s.; Westphalia, 49s. to 53s.
Beef, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 2s. 2d. to 3s. 4d.	Mutton, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 3s. to 3s. 10d.
Butter, per cwt.—Cork, 68s. to 72s.; Waterford, 1st, 64s. to 66s.; Dutch Friesland, 76s. to 80s.; Limerick, 60s. to 65s.	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 60s. to 72s.; Kent and Essex Midding, 55s. to 70s.; Chats, 22s. to 24s.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42s. to 70s.; Wiltshire, double, 40s.; 53s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 30s.; American, 30s.	Pork, 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 3s. 8d.
Eggs, per 30, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.	Veal, per 8 lb., 2s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 25s. to 41s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 26s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica brown, 31s. to 39s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 25s. to 38s.; Brazil, 25s. 6d. to 40s.
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 43s. 6d. to 79s.; Mocha, 50s. to 92s.; Sumatra, 34s. to 37s.; Java, 42s. to 46s.	Tea, per lb. (duty 2s. 1d. and 5 per cent.)—Ord. to good Congou, 7½d. to 1s. 6d.; Souchong, com. to fine, 8d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 8d. to 1s. 3d.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal fine white, 8s. 9d. to 11s.; Madras, 7s. 6d. to 9s.; Patna, cleaned, 11s. to 17s.	

Candles, per 12 lb., 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. | Coals, per ton, 14s. 6d.

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 35½ 10s.	Palm, per ton, 28½ 10s.
Sperm, 82½ to 85½	Olive, Gallipoli, 49½ to 51½
Cod, 33½ 10s. to 34½	Linseed, 28½ 15s. to 29½

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.]

FROM THE 29TH JULY TO THE 27TH AUGUST.

[PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE deep dulness under which everything had lain since the new parliament got itself elected, and which not even a close-running fire of fatal railway accidents availed to lighten or enliven, was suddenly broken through at last by electric flashes from the other side of the Atlantic, through which the quidnuncs saw hopeful gleams of war. For several days nothing to them could be more promising. Excitement gradually rose, the funds gradually fell, and Irish patriots sent forth whoops of eager encouragement at beholding the young western giant in the very act of stripping to whip the old beldame of the seas. One of these patriotic men, who will shortly take his seat at Westminster in the character of a legislator for the welfare of these islands, took the opportunity of putting a supposititious ease, on which he dwelt with much unction. Suppose, he said, an H. M. S. frigate is broadsided by an U. S. frigate in the Bay of Fundy some fine morning, and suppose Louis Napoleon selects that precise morning for his threatened demonstration, and a collision actually takes place within earshot of Gibraltar, and England has to withdraw all her soldiers from the Cape and from India to meet the troubles at home—and—what then, does the reader imagine? Why then, exclaims this patriot member of parliament with an irrepressible exultation, it is more than probable that the Cape, India, the Canadas, and the West Indies, might be all lost to her Britannic Majesty's crown, and very, very possible, that "the French army might pass next winter in London!"

It would be hard to withhold sympathy from a disappointment necessarily so bitter as the overthrow of these airy hopes must have involved to so very sanguine a patriot. For what business had Lord Derby to raise expectations which he afterwards shrunk from making real? Why should Sir John Pakington have written to tell our British Colonial fishermen that they should henceforward be protected from American competition in their fisheries; why should Mr. Crampton write to Mr. Webster that all future encroachments in Fundy and other bays were now to be guarded against by the presence of a small English fleet; and why should the Duke of Northumberland already have anticipated Mr. Crampton by dispatching the "small English fleet" to Fundy Bay with instructions to operate before the Americans knew anything about it;—if it was all to end, after a few smart shocks of stump oratory from Mr. Webster, in a sudden swearing of eternal friendship in Piccadilly between Lord Malmesbury and Mr. Abbott Lawrence, the Yankee first pocketing everything that could be got from the dispute? Patriotic Irishmen have much reason to complain. Could any one imagine that "knuckle under" should so soon have been the order of the day? Was it within the scope of possibility that the flag that braved a thousand years, &c. &c., should so strike of a sudden to a shoal of Fundy cod-bangers? Was it for a moment credible that the British

Lion should show himself such a poor old mangy brute as to run away with his tail between his legs on the mere approach of the eagle's talons to clutch at his mane? To patriotic Irishmen, ever on the anxious look-out for "Erin's opportunity," nothing of this was imaginable, possible, credible; and a fair amount of sympathy for violated hopes and crushed expectations is thus far their due. Sensible Frenchmen, we are bound to add, appear to have kept their wits clearer by taking a less ardent view of France's "opportunity." They saw from the first how, and why, the thing would end. "War," said Armand Bertin quietly in the *Journal des Debats*, at the time when *bella! horrida bella!* was the general note, "war won't arise out of it; and what will prevent war arising, is the firm determination of the English people. In the present state of European politics, and in the prospect of the dark future which hangs over the world, England would rather sacrifice a hundred Derby ministries than her alliance with the United States." Truer word was never spoken than this, O M. Armand Bertin! and it is to the credit of the American president that he, too, with the same sort of prescience, should have anticipated the same result in his remark to an English visitor on the first clamorous outbreak, "Oh! the time is gone by for Great Britain and America ever to think of settling their disputes by war." What honest Englishman does not feel with citizen Fillmore?

So that cloud has passed away, and patriotic Irishmen have had to solace themselves with such comfort as might be suggested to patriotic hearts, by a coroner's verdict of wilful murder opportunely found by an Irish jury against an Irish county magistrate and eight English soldiers of the 31st regiment—the latter for having fired and killed, and the former for having been present when they fired and killed, six of a party of rioters who had fallen foul of the soldiers in their capacity of military escort to a party of voters conveyed in that fashion to vote against the Liberal candidates in the Clare election. The rioters fired upon were undoubtedly a violent mob under leading of certain of the priests; the voters sought to be rescued were as certainly under violent restraint to secure their votes, against their own desires and persuasions, for the use of their landlords; and altogether an affair more scandalously illustrative of the existing condition of Irish patriotism on both sides of the question, it would be extremely difficult to conceive. The verdict is but the finishing touch, completing and perfecting the antecedents. It finds the soldiers wilful murderers for having fired and no orders given; and it finds the magistrate a wilful murderer for having given orders to fire. The most intensely partisan of juries might hardly have been expected to find guilt in more than one of the parties charged, but a jury of Irish partisans had no notion of so botching the business. And to do them justice, the exertion required to discover guilt in either, left little more requisite for the dis-

covery of guilt in both. Provocation for the act of firing, as an act of self-defence, was admitted to the fullest extent. It was clear that there had been a desperate scuffle between the mob and the military; that voters had been dragged off the cars, stones showered on the escort, and some of the soldiers even flung to the ground, before a shot was discharged; nor can it be matter of surprise, however lamentable, that some degree of violence and intemperance should have been manifested by the soldiers when this restraint was once broken through. To the coroner, even after fourteen days' listening to the hardest swearing, it had not seemed possible that such a verdict as murder could be returned. But to Irish patriotism many things are possible; and, having lodged the soldiers and magistrate safely in Ennis gaol on its coroner's warrant, it now excites itself by measuring prospectively the height and aspect of the gallows that may possibly put the finishing stroke to the affair—as its organs tersely express it, “a sixty-feet gallows for the Six-mile murderers!” But as many other things are greatly more possible to happen before any such “mortal instrument” appears upon the scene, it is hardly worth while to say more of this as a point of pressing interest.

Of much nearer concern to us is the question, whether some grand railway amalgamation and consolidation may not some fine morning monopolise all the roads, withdraw such scanty competition and protection as may still be said to exist, diminish trains, raise fares, curtail accommodation, and more wantonly even than at present sacrifice life. Or it may be the question whether a few hard rainy days may not some wet morning turn all the present occupants out of Downing-street. Or, peradventure, the question whether we are to continue to waste 50,000*l.* a month in war with savages for the possession of a territory that has never been anything but an unprofitable burthen to us. Or, it is not unlikely, the question whether it be just that three generations of men shall remain saddled with payment of a sinecure of 10,000*l.* a year which an act of parliament has only thought good to abolish in the fourth generation? Or, above all, the question whether an Asiatic Cholera shall be permitted again to visit us without any of the preparations due to so formidable a visitor. It is quite certain, as to the latter point, that none as yet have been made, notwithstanding the years of experience and warning vouchsafed to us. Indeed the only public exploit in a sanitary direction which has signalled the last few months, is of a kind that indicates either wonderful indifference on the subject or portentous courage in relation to it. Smithfield Market is to be moved to a neighbourhood closely adjoining the most frequented parts of London, itself thickly peopled, crowded with houses and villas, open, clear, healthy, and the inhabitants of which in loud but unavailing complaints are daily protesting against the wrong. The law allows it, and the court awards it. The “law” being that which so strangely gave the right to manange the new market to precisely those who had notoriously mismanaged the old one; and the “court” being that which has never been known to do anything well which it had the power or the opportunity to do ill—to wit, the Court of Common Council.

They manage *these* things, at any rate, better in France, much as they mismanage other things. Active as the police and the prefects have for some time been, however, in managing and mismanaging the interests of M. Louis Bonaparte, the way seems hardly prepared just at present for the scheme to make an Emperor of him. The pre-imperial fêtes the other day were a huge failure. The mimic fights pleased

nobody, and not a *Vive l'Empereur* rewarded them. Even the gas eagle of the triumphal arch refused to shine; and all that could be lighted up of him, as if to typify the tendencies to rapine and spoil which form the only claims of the candidate-imperator, were his beak and claws. The crest, the wings, the plumage, all his nobler and freer attributes implying the capacity and means to soar, remained stubbornly and hopelessly dark and invisible. The very tools of the more human sort created by M. Bonaparte's government, have refused to do the servile work for which they were specifically created. Not a fourth of the Councils of Arrondissement have voted for the Empire, still fewer of the Councils General are now expected to send in petitions for it, and even the most ignorant of what are called the constituencies of these Councils are beginning to discover what a farce it is to enjoy or exercise universal suffrage at the point of the bayonet. It is, therefore, quite upon the cards that the last step of ambition may be again, what it so often has been, the first of downfal and degradation; nor is it the part of any honest man to wish it should be otherwise.

And talking of honest men, let us close our month's glance at such public affairs as the Three Kingdoms have most call to feel interested in, by remarking a strong existing probability that the attempt to make honest men of the Belgian book-sellers by means of the French Copyright Convention will end in its overthrow by the overthrow of the ministry that sanctions it. Also, that a very different sort of French interference is at this moment threatening to override the Turkish empire, which already it has deprived of its most honest man, by turning Reschid Pasha out of the Sultan's councils. Finally, that the so-called honest man, General Urquiza, the liberator of the Argentine Confederation, who but the other day overthrew the government of Rosas in the name of freedom and civilisation, has already suspended the constitution he affected to restore, has dissolved the legislature, and has set up a despotism to all appearance as exclusive, arbitrary, and irresponsible as that of the cruel and reckless tyrant so lately thrust out of Buenos Ayres with curses and contempt. It is now to be seen how long Urquiza will remain, and whether English tourism will join with French tyranny in a ready eagerness to support him.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

In the List of *Members Returned to serve in the New Parliament*, given in our last number, the following were not included:—

	Liberals.	Ministerialists.
Antrim .....	.....	Capt. Pakenham.
Donegal	Sir E. Hayes.....	E. M. Conolly.
Gloucester City... ..	W. P. Price.....	
Durham, North.....	.....	Vise. Seaham.
Durham, South.....	.....	J. Farrer.
Orkney and Shetland.....	Dun las.	

An Order in Council appeared in the London Gazette of the 18th, *Proroguing the parliament* from the 20th of August, on which day it had been appointed to meet, to the 21st of October next; and also for proroguing the *Convocation* of the provinces of Canterbury and York, from the 21st inst. to the 22nd of October.

The Paris Journal, *Le Pays*, states that a note has been addressed by the Cabinet of St. James's to the Austrian Government, in which the assurance is given that all measures of precaution will be taken to prevent the presence of Kossuth at London, from troubling the good relations established between England and Austria.

Preliminary proceedings have commenced in various counties for raising their quotas of *Militia*. The Lord-Lieutenants have issued addresses and delivered speeches inviting young men to volunteer; and holding out as a

great advantage the proposed bounty, which would pay rent for two years, or produce one loaf per week if spread over the five. The contingency of the ballot also is made much of.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

At the Warwick Assizes on the 28th of July, an action was tried at the instance of Constant Derra de Meroda, against G. Dawson, H. W. Tyndall, R. Peyton, and A. Ryland, to recover *Damages for False and Malicious Imprisonment*. It will be remembered, that in August last year a Hungarian lady, styling herself the Baroness von Beck, visited Birmingham, and was accompanied by the plaintiff, who acted as her secretary. They were invited by Mr. Tyndall, a solicitor in Birmingham, to take up their residence at his house, Madame von Beck being at the time in ill-health. In consequence of circumstances which afterwards transpired, the lady and her secretary were taken into custody by the police at Mr. Tyndall's house, on the night of the 30th of August, and lodged in the borough prison. As they were being brought up for examination before the magistrates on the following morning, Madame von Beck died. But depositions were made by Mr. Dawson, Mr. Peyton, Mr. Arthur Ryland, and Mr. Richard Peyton, which alleged false pretences on the part of Von Beck, mainly on evidence derived from Hungarian sources; charging her with being no Baroness but a spy, and averring that her real name was Racidula. Mr. Charles de Soden, a foreign interpreter, alleged that she was a spy in the pay of the Foreign Branch of the English Police; but that charge has never been substantiated. The result was, that the magistrates found no case against Derra, and he was discharged without imputation. He then brought the present action, claiming 5000*l.* damages, against Mr. Dawson, Mr. Peyton, Mr. Tyndall, and Mr. Ryland; alleging that they had falsely and maliciously procured his arrest and imprisonment. Certain depositions were then handed in as having formed the ground of the proceeding; but among them was no warrant of arrest and no statement of charges. Mr. Baron Alderson interposed, and asked for the warrant. No answer was made.—Mr. Gem, Clerk to the Magistrates, in answer to a question by the Judge, said he was present at the second hearing, when the prisoner was discharged.—Mr. Baron Alderson: "How did it come on? One would suppose that even in a police-court they would follow the ordinary rules of justice. One would suppose that it would be brought on upon some warrant being read."—Mr. Gem said it was not the practice. The charge was stated verbally before the magistrates, and then the case came on.—The Judge: "But is not that charge reduced to writing?"—Witness: "Not at the moment: when the witnesses are sworn the charge is reduced to writing."—The Judge: "I suppose, if you were to do everything regularly, you would not get on at all. But it is very hard on other people."—Mr. Gem stated, that, the charge being abandoned, the notes he had taken of the second day's hearing were not drawn up as depositions, and were not signed.—The Judge: "It is really very irregular. When a man is accused, let him have the accusation read, so that he may know afterwards who makes the accusation, and who calls the witnesses. What remedy has a person situated as this plaintiff is? You should have something to show who prosecutes. Was there no police-study signed by the man who gave the parties into custody?"—The witness said that in all probability there was.—The Judge: "Then, why is not that produced?"—Subsequently, Mr. Baron Alderson said, "The whole proceedings connected with the depositions and the informations were of the most disgraceful and irregular character;" and Mr. Justice Coleridge agreed with him in that opinion.—Finally, after a great deal of evidence had been taken, chiefly respecting the Baroness von Beck, her right to that title, and her character, the Judge concluded that there was no case for a jury, as there was no evidence of the issue of a warrant, and consequently no proof that it was issued upon a "false

and malicious statement." Constant Derra was thereupon nonsuited.

A most painful case of *Matricide* has occurred at Birkenhead. Elizabeth Thomas was a widow, who lived at the village of Prenton with her three sons, William, Joseph, and Samuel. William was twenty-three years old, Joseph twenty, and Samuel nine. They all lived happily; the mother going out charring and to wash, and the elder sons working as labourers. Some months ago Mrs. Thomas called in Mr. Byerley, a surgeon, to attend William, who complained of headache and drowsiness. Mr. Byerley bled him and gave him medicine, and in about a fortnight he got well. Three weeks after, he again grew ill; but to the surgeon he always appeared rational. Blisters were applied, and he again improved. This lasted, however, only a short time; and his manner became sufficiently singular to be noticed by both his brothers and his mother. The symptoms increased; and on the morning of the 30th July Mr. Byerley again ordered him to be blistered on the back of the neck; and his mother spoke to the surgeon about sending him to a lunatic asylum. But she did not live to do it; for in the night of the next day William murdered her in her bed. The story is told by the evidence taken at the inquiry made by the magistrates at Birkenhead, before whom William Thomas was taken. William and Joseph went out on Saturday night, leaving behind their mother and Samuel. William returned first, and told his mother not to sit up, as he would wait for Joseph. Mrs. Thomas went to bed, where she slept with her youngest son. This part of the story was narrated by Samuel, crying bitterly. After he had been some time asleep, he was awake by his mother "knocking against" him. He saw his brother "kneeling on his mother with a candle in one hand and a razor in another." "William put the candle down, and laid hold of my mother's throat with one hand, and drew the razor across her throat." She wrestled a little, but "soon lay down quite still." "After he had cut my mother's throat, he hauled her down." Samuel was then carried to William's bed; whence, looking out, he saw his mother's head on the top of the stairs being dragged down. By and by Joseph came home, and was frightened by seeing a light in the back-room window. "I walked into the house-place [a cottage sitting-room is so called in Lancashire], and William called out from the back-room, who was there? I said 'It's me.' He then came down. When at the foot of the stairs, he said to me, 'Joe, I have killed my mother, and buried her in the garden, comfortable; and she will be a good deal better off. I have made her comfortable. Don't you go and say anything.' I cried out, and asked him where Sam was, and he said, 'He is up-stairs in bed.' Joseph then carried Samuel to the house of a neighbour. [Just at this moment he was requested by one of the magistrates to speak more audibly; when the prisoner, at the top of his voice, and in a shrill tone, exclaimed, "Speak up as they can hear thee, Joe: nobody can hear thee speak, man."] Joseph called up the neighbours, and several came with him. "We searched the premises and the garden. The first thing that we saw was the bed and bolsters lying on the ground. There was a good deal of blood upon them. We then saw a mound of new earth, and we commenced digging. About two feet under the soil we came to a hand sticking up. We then cleared away the earth, and found the body of my mother, Elizabeth Thomas. She had only her shift upon her. There was a blanket wrapped around her. It was very bloody. There was a rope tied round my mother's waist. The body was then taken out, and conveyed to the house. I became too much affected to observe more, and went into the house. William, all the time that we were searching for the body, was sitting in the house talking with a man from Prenton." Both the brothers spoke as to the strange and excited manner of William during the past twelvemonth, and especially during the last week. Samuel said he was generally kind to his mother, and she to him. They never quarrelled; but he would sometimes *sauce* her. "A few days ago, I heard him *sauce* her." Joseph said, "I considered him wrong about the head for a twelvemonth back: his oddness showed itself in getting foolish, and during the

last week he got more excited." The magistrates committed William, and the coroner's jury found a verdict of "Wilful murder" against him. He was tried at Chester assizes, and acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Mr. Bourne, a surgeon practising at Wellon near Bath, was tried at Wells Assizes for the *Manslaughter* of Ann Noakes, who died on the 21st of June, in consequence of excessive hæmorrhage after a very difficult delivery. Mr. Bourne had been called in because the poor woman had not an order on the parish-doctor; he attended her for nine hours, but left the house at four in the morning, to go to the assistance of a farmer's wife named Parker, to whom he was engaged. The question involved was, practically, whether Mr. Bourne was justified in leaving Ann Noakes in the hands of midwives at a critical stage of her trouble. Before he departed he told the woman that they must instantly send for Mr. Marsh, the parish-doctor. Mr. Marsh lived six miles distant, and could not reach Wellon until six o'clock; thus leaving her in great danger for two hours. Mr. Marsh accomplished the delivery with instruments, and the woman died of excessive hæmorrhage. Evidence was taken to show that Mrs. Parker, the woman to attend whom Mr. Bourne left Ann Noakes, was in great danger; and it was shown that although Mrs. Parker was delivered at half-past four, Mr. Bourne was obliged to remain with her until half-past six. Two medical men were examined upon the point as to whether it was dangerous to leave the patient for an hour; and both decided that by all ordinary calculations it was not. One thought that a surgeon ought not to leave one patient, whose life was in danger, to attend another to whom he was engaged. They also thought that a patient ought not to be removed for less than an hour after delivery. Some evidence was brought to show that Mr. Bourne was a kind man and well spoken of by the poor. The jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty."

At Maidstone Assizes, William Butler, a sapper and miner, was convicted of *Uttering a forged Certificate of Marriage*. The case was extraordinary. Ann Farrell, a young Irish girl, was courted by the prisoner at Chatham; the banns of marriage were published at Chatham Church; but Butler afterwards told the girl they should be married at Gillingham. Accordingly one morning they went to the church there, and some men asked questions, went through forms, and one man, "in a sort of cloak," pretended to marry them. Subsequently, Butler gave a paper to the young woman—her "marriage lines;" this was the forgery. Ann Farrell, like Butler, is a Roman Catholic, and knew nothing of the forms of the English Church. She had saved some money, of which her pretended husband got possession. They lived together fourteen months, and had a child; then Butler told her she was no wife. It appeared that the soldiers had access to Gillingham Church to make surveys from the lofty tower. The culprit was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

Mr. Cobbett, who has been confined more than thirteen years for an alleged *Contempt of the Court of Chancery*, was discharged by the Lord Chancellor on the 31st ult. Having looked through the papers, Lord St. Leonards found that Mr. Cobbett has not been imprisoned for contempt, but for non-payment of costs! Mr. Oldfield, to whom the costs were due, consented to the discharge.

A determined act of *Suicide* was committed on the 31st ult. by a man in the employ of the Great Western Company, named Watts. In the morning he left home to see, as was his custom, where his or his men's services were needed, and about twelve o'clock was observed to be standing, apparently in a thoughtful mood, near the Wallingford station. Shortly after that hour an express train was seen coming up, and on its approach towards the station, the deceased ran forward and threw himself across the rails. By the engine he was struck and knocked forward at least 150 yards, and the whole of the carriages passed over him, mutilating him in a dreadful manner.

In the Edinburgh Jury Court, Mrs. Janet Donald or Eadie has obtained a verdict of 100*l.* for herself and 200*l.* for her children, as *Compensation for the Death of her Husband*, who had been killed in the pit of the

Barton's Hill Coal Company, at Dykehead, owing to the unsafe condition of the pit, in which the deceased was engaged as a collier.

The preliminary investigation into the *Riots at Stockport* closed on the 2nd inst., with the committal of twenty prisoners—ten English and ten Irish. The Home Secretary has declined to prosecute on the part of government, and has left the matter in the hand of Mr. Frith, the priest whose house was ransacked, and Mr. Foster. But it was intimated that the government would take upon itself any reasonable expenses properly incurred by these gentlemen, over and above the costs of prosecution allowed by the county.—The trials of the prisoners took place at the Chester Assizes, before Mr. Justice Crompton. The Irish prisoners, ten in number, were first tried. Only seven answered to their names; three forfeited their bail. The names of the accused are Thomas Feeney, labourer; Patrick O'Hara, tailor; Roger M'Dermot, labourer; Michael M'Dermot, throstle-doffier; Thomas Murphy, labourer; Thomas Garvey, labourer; and Patrick Naughton, piercer. It was proved that they all had been actively engaged in the various riots and encounters which preceded the burning of the chapels and the storming of Rock Row. It appeared, also, that the causes of the riot were the long-standing animosities of the two races, both as regards competition in the labour-market and variance in religion. Of the accused, Feeney was proved to have acted as a leader; and the others as active combatants. All the prisoners were found guilty of rioting; Murphy of maliciously wounding; Naughton of an assault; and Roger M'Dermot not guilty of assault. The English prisoners were subsequently tried. Three of them were convicted of rioting, the others were acquitted. The prisoners were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, for terms varying from two years to two months.

A case which has been for some time before the Prerogative Court, was concluded on the 10th. It was a question of granting *Probate to a Will* executed by Mr. John Easthope, son of Sir John Easthope, Bart., on the 10th of February 1844. By this will, the bulk of his property was left to his sister, Miss Easthope; legacies of 500*l.* each being given under it to Mrs. M'Gillivray and Mrs. Doyle, his other sisters; and the riding-horses and carriages to Sir John Easthope. Mr. Easthope kept this will until the 3rd of September 1846, when he went to the office of his solicitor, Mr. Joseph Parkes, and requested him to revoke the appointment of Sir John Easthope as executor. But Mr. Parkes refused, thinking from his manner that Mr. Easthope was of unsound mind. Such turned out to be the fact. On leaving the office of Mr. Parkes, Mr. Easthope met Mr. Harkness, his principal clerk, and then gave instructions as to the purchase of stock and shares which led Mr. Harkness to the same conclusion as Mr. Parkes. Leaving his clerk, Mr. Easthope went to the house of Mr. Doyle, his brother-in-law, at Camberwell; and, according to the account of Woods, footman at Mr. Doyle's, Mr. Easthope rose early the next morning and destroyed a quantity of papers at the kitchen-fire, threatening to knock down Woods if he interfered. After this date, Mr. Easthope became so evidently insane that he was put under restraint; and his father was made committee of his person by the decision of a *commission de lunatic*. In 1849 Mr. Easthope died: the will could not be found; Sir John became entitled to the personal estate and effects of his son; Miss Easthope felt aggrieved, and hence the lawsuit. Since 1846 Miss Easthope had been from time to time accusing her father of destroying the will. Search was made for it, but Sir John could not find it either among the papers of Mr. Easthope or at any banker's or at Mr. Parkes's. Sir John Easthope had promised, that if any reasonable account could be made out respecting the missing will, he would set it up by a deed; but he refused to sign a deed making all the property over to Miss Easthope. Sir John Dodson accepted the draught will propounded by Miss Easthope; he also held that Sir John Easthope was free from any imputation, or that there had been a conspiracy among his daughters against him. Each party to pay their own costs.

Lord Frankfort appeared at the Bow-street police

court, on the 10th, on a summons obtained by Lord Henry Lennox, to whom, it was alleged, Lord Frankfort had sent *Improper Letters*. It appeared from the evidence brought forward, that Lord Frankfort is in the habit of sending to persons of both sexes letters under feigned names, of which the following is a specimen. "Mr. Macbeath presents his duty to the parties, and informs them that he continues to arrange assignations between ladies and gentlemen to meet in private; and having been trained under Wilmer Harris, he now acts direct under precedent. Mr. MacB. begs to call the attention of ladies to his peculiar system, and that he will wait on them himself, and send up his card in a tissue envelope, and arrange a meeting for them with the gay Lothario of the evening. He would engage to show them their husbands asleep while the lady would be with the gallant; married ladies to have half their husband's fortunes, and spinsters to be otherwise provided for. He had put the husband of one lady into the Ecclesiastical Court, and had broken the neck of another husband and baronet; so he was quite safe." [The letter concluded by offering further services of a similar nature.] Inspector Field and Sergeant Thornton proved that they had watched the servant of Lord Frankfort to the Post-office at Charing Cross, and there seized the letters and took her into custody; she then admitted that she had received them from Lord Frankfort. John Grey, formerly a Policeman, deposed that in interviews he had had with Lord Frankfort, they conversed on the subject of the letters. Lord Frankfort told Grey to urge Field to come to a compromise, as he had committed a theft and a trespass in stealing the stamps. After stating the particulars of one interview, Grey said—"I saw his lordship again on the 28th, at his own house in Buckingham-street; when I said I could not see Mr. Field yesterday, for he went to Goodwood Races, and Sergeant Thornton is out of town. His lordship replied, 'They are in a damnable mess. Send some one to them; but don't make it appear that he comes from me, for they have committed a highway robbery on my personal property, as well as a trespass. If they have acted on a warrant issued by the Secretary of State and Sir Richard Mayne—for they are both hasty—I shall bring it before the Parliament, and the Derby Government will be thrown out, and Sir Richard Mayne will lose his place; for they will both deny, and the men will be left to their own resources; for I can get a verdict against them.' That terminated the conversation of the 28th." Lord Frankfort repeatedly denied the correctness of the statements of the witnesses. Mr. MacBeath, whose name was used, believed that the handwriting of the letters was that of Lord Frankfort. The case was adjourned; and Lord Frankfort was bound over in a 500*l.* bond to appear.

The case came on again on the 17th, when further circumstances connected with the charge were brought forward. The magistrate committed Lord Frankfort for trial at the Central Criminal Court; his lordship entering into his own recognisance in 500*l.*, and finding two sureties of 200*l.* each. On the 19th the case was removed by writ of certiorari from the Central Criminal Court to the Court of Queen's Bench.

An inquest on Mr. Sard, a gentleman who was *drowned* by the sinking of the *Duchess of Kent*, but whose body was not found for sometime, was concluded on the 11th inst. Much conflicting evidence was given as to the cause of the disaster. A solicitor complained of the conduct of the Commercial Steam-packet Company in not notifying to Mr. Sard's relatives that they had property of his in their possession. The jury referred to this in their verdict—"That the deceased John Sard came by his death through an accidental collision between the *Duchess of Kent* and the *Ravensbourne* steamers, off Northfleet, on the 1st of July, 1852. The jury cannot separate without expressing their feelings in terms of strong condemnation, in consequence of the neglect of the owners of the *Duchess of Kent* in not advertising the property of the said John Sard in their custody, they having had the means of ascertaining the same from papers found in his luggage which was saved from the wreck."

At Gloucester Assizes, on the 11th, William Henry Barrett pleaded guilty to committing divers *Forgeries*,

by which he had put in circulation false bills of exchange to the amount of 2000*l.* Barrett was formerly sheriff of the city. When his forgeries were discovered he fled to America; but he was pursued and brought back to England. His sentence is transportation for fourteen years.

Twenty-four *Irish Orangemen* were arrested in the streets of Liverpool on the 12th inst. They formed part of a procession, which attempted to parade the street in celebration of the battle of Aughrim. The majority of the promenaders wore orange scarfs; two had naked swords in their hands, several had truncheons with models of the Bible and crown at one end. Many also wore pistols loaded and capped. The police promptly interfered with their projects, and arrested the number mentioned above. Ten were discharged, and fourteen, on being brought before the magistrates, were committed to take their trial at the assizes. They were admitted to bail, on entering into their own recognizances of forty shillings, and finding two sureties of twenty shillings each.

There have been lately several cases of *Complaints by intending Emigrants against Shipping Agents*. On the 14th, a number of persons complained to the Lord Mayor that Mr. Thompson, of Riches Court, Lime-street, had not performed what he undertook. He had engaged to forward a number of persons to Australia in the ship *Lockwood*; but it was announced by advertisement that he had no authority for this; and he then transferred the passengers to the *City of Lincoln*, which was to sail from Liverpool on the 10th of July. But after the people were on board the ship, the pretended owner became insolvent, and certain mortgagees threatened to seize the vessel. The poor passengers were in a sad plight. Weeks passed without the ship's sailing; and at length the emigrants sent a deputation to London, where the passage-money had been paid, to obtain restitution. Mr. Bullantime stated, on the part of Mr. Thompson, that he had been merely the agent of the person in Liverpool, to whom he had transmitted 1800*l.* The *City of Lincoln* was now in the hands of a solvent person, and would certainly sail on Monday or Tuesday. If the applicants would go in her, Mr. Thompson would pay each 5*l.* for expenses and the inconvenience suffered. After some consultation, the deputation consented to these terms; and the Lord Mayor directed Mr. Sewell, one of his household, to accompany them to Liverpool to see that the contract should be fulfilled. Mr. Sewell reported to the Lord Mayor that he had found the ship had fallen into respectable hands; the emigrants were well treated, and they were to sail at noon that very day: when he left the vessel, three clercs for the city magistrates were given by the passengers. The same officer stated that the *Alfred*, about the delay of which ship there were complaints last week, had now gone through the Downs, with her passengers well provided for.

At Liverpool Assizes, on the 17th, George Farance was tried for *Burglary with Violence*. It was proved that he was one of a gang of armed and masked men who broke by night into a farm-house at West Derby, near Liverpool, beat the owner with a life-preserver, and ransacked the house. The police encountered six men near the place, and tried to arrest them; the prisoner wounded one of the police in the face with a pistol, but he was taken while the rest of the gang escaped. A verdict of "Guilty" was returned, and sentence of death recorded; but the punishment will be transportation for life.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 17th, Richard Sill, an attorney, was tried for *Obtaining Money by False Pretences* from Henry Broome. Sill was the prosecuting attorney for Mr. Hamp, in the notorious Brighton "card cheating case," in which John Broome, brother of Henry, was one of the defendants. While the case was proceeding before the Brighton magistrates, Sill went to Henry Broome, and told him that he had seen the home secretary, that he had influence with him, and that he could save John Broome from transportation if he were paid for his trouble. Henry gave him cash and bills; and Sill tried to withdraw the prosecution; but the Brighton magistrates only directed that he should withdraw as prosecuting solicitor, and ordered

their own clerk to continue the prosecution. James and Staden have since been convicted at Lewes; John Broome did not surrender to take his trial with them, but was subsequently traced to Belgium. The case was fully made out. Mr. Secretary Walpole was examined, to prove that Sill had never called upon him, and that the attorney had no "influence" with him: Mr. Walpole knew nothing about the case except from seeing it in the newspapers. The jury consulted for three-quarters of an hour, and convicted the accused. When he was brought up to receive sentence on Thursday, Sill applied for a postponement, on the ground that he had been the victim of a conspiracy, and that he could disprove the evidence by affidavits. The Recorder, after consulting the other judges, consented to postpone judgement till next Sessions.

The first decision under the act for preventing the *Over-crowding of River Steam-boats* was given by the Lord Mayor on the 17th. Mr. Chipperfield, master of the Queen, was charged with conveying an excessive number of persons to Herne Bay and back, on the 26th July. The certificate of the Board of Trade permitted 300 persons to be conveyed for the excursion; but the number on board was 666. The penalty is 20*l.* and 5*s.* for each passenger beyond the legal number. As this was the first case the Lord Mayor was lenient, but threatened severity to the next offender: he inflicted a fine of 5*l.* for breaking the law, and 5*l.* for the excess of number. 5*s.* on each passenger would have amounted to 91*l.* 10*s.*

A coroner's inquest on the bodies of *Five men killed in a Riot* at a place called Six-Mile Bridge, during the election for the county of Clare, closed a long investigation on the 18th inst. A great mob, in a state of excitement had pressed upon a party of soldiers of the 31st regiment, who were escorting some voters to the hustings, and were fired upon by the soldiers. An immense mass of evidence was taken; the witnesses being a number of the persons engaged in the riot, several priests who were among them, some of the soldiers, and other persons who were eye-witnesses. The evidence was exceedingly confused and contradictory; but it appeared that the soldiers were met and assaulted by bodies of people throwing stones, pushing in amongst the cars, seizing the firelocks of the troops, and hauling away at the voters. Lieutenant Hutton, and Captain Eager, who had charge of the detachment of the 31st, distinctly showed that the soldiers were under great provocation. Lieutenant Hutton, who had served in the Afghan war, restrained his men, although they repeatedly begged to be permitted to fire. Captain Eager considered that his men would have been disarmed and killed had they not fired. These statements were sustained under cross-examination, and corroborated by the privates of the 31st. It seems also clear that the soldiers fired without orders; and that some of them fired twice, once in presumed self-defence, and once into the crowd flying up the street. This latter fact weighed very much with the coroner and the jury. The verdict returned, after an hour and a half of deliberation, was agreed to by twelve out of fifteen—"We are satisfied that John. C. Delmege, J. P., John Gleeson (first), James Postings, William Barnes, John Thompson, John Dwyer, James Sharpe, Thomas Clarke, and John Carter, soldiers of the 31st regiment, are guilty of the wilful murder of Jeremiah Frawley." Five jurors dissented from the verdict. One of them, Mr. W. Mahon, stated that although they had not agreed to the above verdict, they did not acquit the soldiers of all criminality, and that they would all have agreed to a verdict of manslaughter by soldiers whose persons were not identified. The five dissentient jurors also acquitted Mr. J. C. Delmege, the magistrate who had been present, of having either fired himself or given any orders to fire. The jury were then requested to again retire and consider their verdict as to the cause of death in the other cases, namely, M. Connellan, M. Colman, T. Ryan, J. Casey, and J. Flaherty. The counsel for the soldiers applied to have them admitted to bail. In consequence of the extraordinary verdict which had been given in, against even the opinion intimated in the coroner's charge, it would be necessary to make such an application immediately to the Queen's Bench; but he apprehended that it was in

the discretion of the coroner to allow bail to be given for them. Another ground on which he pressed his application was, that the jury had not been regularly empanelled, no precept having been issued to the sub-inspector of police to summon a jury, except in the case of Frawley. The coroner said it should be remembered that the five dissentient jurors had stated that they would have brought in a verdict of manslaughter, in which case, if it were civilians he was dealing with, he should have no hesitation in issuing a warrant. He could make no distinction between a red coat and a dark one, but was there to do his duty fairly but firmly to all parties. The jury having returned a similar verdict in the other cases, the requisition was engrossed in due form. The coroner then issued his warrant for the arrest of the persons implicated in the verdict, and it was intrusted for execution to sub-inspector Donovan and a party of constabulary, by whom the eight soldiers were conducted to Ennis gaol. Mr. Delmege was not present in the court.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on the 19th, Policeman Slaney was tried for the *Murder of an old Woman*, who was killed during an election-riot. The woman died from a violent blow on the temple, such as a constable's staff would inflict; that blow was dealt while the police were struggling with the mob in a court; but the evidence was not conclusive that Slaney struck the blow. Policeman Doane, who was one of the body engaged in the fight, has since absconded; it was suggested that he was the homicide. The Jury acquitted the prisoner. When he appeared outside the court, the crowd cheered, and he was borne along in triumph on men's shoulders.

Alfred Waddington, a dissolute young man of Sheffield, has *Murdered his Illegitimate Child*, and attempted to kill its mother, Sarah Slater. The mother had taken out a summons because Waddington had not paid for the child's support; on the evening of the 19th inst. he got the infant from a girl who was nursing it, carried it to a wood, and cut its head off, leaving the remains in the wood; then he went to a place where the mother was, called her into the street, and with a large clasp-knife attempted to cut her throat; but she held up her hands and saved her neck at their expense, and Waddington ran away. After this he met Sarah Dobson, and when she questioned him, he cut her on the face with the knife, and again fled. He subsequently surrendered himself to the police, and has been committed for trial.

David Davies, landlord of a public-house at Lower Swinford, has been committed to Worcester Gaol for *Murder*, perpetrated under very extraordinary circumstances. His son, a boy of fifteen, has also been committed as an accessory before the fact; but he has been allowed to put in bail. Some railway labourers who had been drinking at the public-house turned out to fight, and then went back to the house, where they made a great disturbance; in consequence, a crowd assembled outside, consisting mostly of noisy boys. Davies, who had been from home, now returned, and attempted to disperse the mob, striking several with his stick. The boys hooted and threw stones. Davies withdrew into the house, threatening to shoot them. He had two guns, which his son now loaded; and the father went to an upper window and fired into the crowd, using violent language. The guns were reloaded, and again fired, killing one person and wounding four others. Mrs. Pardoe, wife of a collier, with six children, was shot dead in the act of looking for one of her children in the crowd. Mrs. Brentall, a middle-aged lady, was wounded in several places while attempting to aid the deceased, who was formerly her servant. The other sufferers were two men—one a miner, wounded in the neck, it is feared mortally; and a bricklayer's wife, who was shot in the legs.

An incident of *Romance in Real Life* has just transpired. In April 1843, a vagrant woman was charged at the Mansion-house with stealing a little boy three or four years of age. In a state of destitution the woman had entered the Asylum for the Houseless Poor. Dr. Bowie, the surgeon, suspected that she had stolen the child; and, along with Mr. Edwards, chairman of the asylum, caused her to be arrested. She pretended that the child was her own; but there was no doubt that he

was not so, for on being taken into the Lord Mayor's drawing-room its talk and behaviour showed that it had been brought up in a gentleman's family. The child talked of his "mamma" in the country, of Canterbury, of his "nice new frock," and so on. He said his name was Dupuis, not Thompson, as the woman called herself. The pretended mother consented to resign the child. Since that time, every effort has been made to discover his parents, but in vain. Now grown a handsome lad of thirteen, Dupuis attended with Mr. Edwards at Guildhall Police Office, to tell Alderman Humphrey, the Lord Mayor of 1843, that he is about to emigrate to Melbourne, to join Dr. Bowie, who has settled there. The Alderman directed that *1l.* should be given to him from the poor-box, and *5l.* remitted to Melbourne for his use. He sails for Australia in the Blackwall emigrant-ship from Southampton.

The trials arising out of the *Wigan Election Riots* took place at the Liverpool assizes on the 21st. John Blinkhorn and John Leadbetter were convicted of a riot on the 7th July last at Wigan. The two prisoners belonged to what was called the Orange party, and Blinkhorn in particular was exceedingly active in a disturbance which arose between that party and the Irish.—Joseph Acton, John Acton, Patrick Hagan, James Kerrigan, Terence M'Ghin, Simon Dunn, Thomas Conway, Michael Kelly, all members of what was known as the Irish party, were also found guilty of a riot on the 8th of July.—In passing sentence, Lord Campbell dwelt with some severity on the conduct of both parties in reviving feuds between the lower orders, on account of their happening to belong to different countries, or to profess different creeds. In the hope that all would henceforth live together in harmony and peace, he should inflict only a month's imprisonment on each prisoner, excepting Blinkhorn, who was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

At Guildhall on the 21st, Eliza Bentley, a good-looking young woman, was charged with *Attempting to commit Suicide*. The prisoner was seen by a policeman rushing down the steps of Blackfriars bridge on the previous night; he followed her, and was just in time to prevent her from plunging into the water. He took her to the station, where she expressed a determination to destroy herself, and even attempted to hang herself with her shawl in the cell. She was drunk, and had been in custody on several occasions for similar attempts. Her husband attended, and complained of her drunken habits, and she complained of her husband's conduct towards her. He earned as much as 36s. per week, and spent it all in profligacy. It was that which first drove her to drinking. She earned money herself as a singer. She was married very young, and had had ten children. It was finally arranged that she should make herself chargeable to the parish, so as to enable them to compel her husband to support her.

A case of *Skittle-Sharpping* was brought before the sitting magistrate at the Mansion-house on the 21st. John Mulloney, George Collins, and Samuel Ridgely were charged with having cheated Daniel Barker of cash, amounting to between *3l.* and *4l.* at skittles. The prosecutor stated that two of the three prisoners induced him to play against the third, by offering to bet upon him and supplying him with spirits and water. They had, it appeared, tried in vain to be allowed to play in some grounds, because the landlords happened to suspect one or two of them of sharp practice at the game. At last they took the prosecutor to the Sun public-house, Bishopsgate-street, where they asked to have the ground to themselves. The landlord consented to the proposal, and suspecting that there was some intention of making a victim, immediately afterwards communicated with Ward, one of the City Detective Police, who entered the premises in plain clothes and watched the whole of the proceedings of the prisoners. It was quite evident to him that the prisoners were in confederacy to plunder the prosecutor, who at first played for *5s.*, and was allowed to win, and afterwards played as high as *1l.* a game, at which, as a matter of course, he lost. As they were all retiring, at about twelve o'clock, the prisoners were astonished to find themselves brought before the bar by the officer, who had taken care to have two other constables in readiness to assist him. Ward, the officer,

said, that in consequence of what Mr. Towsay, the landlord of the inn, said to him, he went into the skittle ground, and looked on at the play. He saw at once that the three prisoners had a "plant" upon the prosecutor. One of them, in setting up the pins, took care to keep them at a distance from each other, when the prosecutor was going to knock them down, and to put them close together when the other player (his confederate) was to fling the ball at them. The two fellows who were not playing were loud in betting in favour of the prosecutor, and took care, at the same time, that he should not be without the spirituous excitement to continue the game till all the money he had in his possession was lost. "I have known Ridgely," said the officer, "to be a skittle sharp for a considerable time, and I have known the others to be the constant companions of people of the kind. The moment they thought they had all the young man's money safe amongst them, they coolly put on their coats and were walking away, but they were immediately introduced to the station house." The Alderman asked whether any particular conversation took place when the prisoners were apprehended? Ward said one of them had offered to return the money to the prosecutor, and wished to know whether that would not satisfy him. As they were going towards the station-house, one of the prisoners threw away a counterfeit sovereign, which was picked up in the street, and upon the person of another of them was found another sham piece of money. These counterfeits were no doubt the money which the prisoners had flashed about in the skittle ground while the betting was going on, for no other money was found in their possession with the exception of that of which the prosecutor had been defrauded, all of which was taken from the pocket of Ridgely, with whom he had been playing. Alderman Moon said the case appeared to him to be just the sort of case that was adapted to the Old Bailey, and was sure that the prisoners represented a very numerous class of her Majesty's subjects. Mulloney said—I wish to know why I am brought here. This young man bets with me, and wins my money, and now I am pulled up because another wins his money. Do you call that fair? I think that skittle-sharpping, and no mistake. Collins—I had nothing to do with the game at all, but was a mere looker-on. I have often played with the prosecutor, and he has won money upon my play. Ridgely—I don't know what he wants of me. I played a manly game with him, and then, because I gained the victory, he gives me in charge. There was no sharpping upon my side. All that's in it is that I am the best player. The prisoners were committed for trial.

A Chanery suit, Beckford v. Jasper,—begun *above a hundred years ago*, is now in a fair way of being wound up. The original plaintiff was Thomas Beckford, executor of one James Pope, a merchant, in Madeira, and Edward Jasper, also a merchant, was the original defendant. Jasper owed Pope 10,000*l.*, and Pope died in 1743, and in 1748 Beckford, his executor, filed this bill against Jasper, who died before he could put in an answer. The suit was revived against Jasper's executors, and in 1753 the cause was heard before Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, and referred to the Master to take accounts. In 1764 and in 1772 further proceedings were taken, and 630*l.* in Bank Stock and 555*l.* were lodged to the credit of the cause, which then slept until 1851, when Mr. J. D. Wadham obtained administration to Pope, the original testator, and revived the bill against Jasper's representatives. The funds to the credit of the cause had, by accumulation of dividends, bonuses, &c., amounted to 70,000*l.* Wadham had to take out administration to five intermediate estates, and to pay 778*l.* for the stamp duties. The case is now wound up by an order to pay the costs of all parties out of the funds in court, and to share the remainder according to the respective rights of the claimants.

A young Austrian, named Francis Thopier, was charged at the Mansion-house, on the 21th, with having *Attempted to destroy himself*, by throwing himself from a boat into the Thames. The young man, whose wild look indicated great distress of mind, had been dragged out of the water by a waterman named Carpenter. A medical gentleman, who was acquainted with part of his history, said the unfortunate young man was

acquainted with several languages, and had read with such intense application as to affect his intellect. His object in coming to this country was to avail himself of the opportunities of distinction which an education at Oxford would afford him, and he had separated himself from his nearest relatives because they were, according to his account, opposed to his desire to abandon the Jewish religion, and become a Christian. The Lord Mayor desired that particular inquiry should be made into the case, and remanded the defendant.

A singular Case occurred at the Middlesex Sessions on the 25th. Benjamin Bayley was indicted for having stolen 20 pounds of printed paper and 200 prints, the property of George Frederick Carden.—The prosecutor, who is a member of the bar, has a house in Rathbone-place, and rooms in Searle's-chambers, Lincoln's-inn. He said he had been for eighteen years the sole proprietor and editor of the "Court and Ladies' Magazine," the publication of which, however, was now suspended, and the property the prisoner was charged with stealing was a quantity of the old numbers of that work, together with a variety of prints published therein from time to time. A large stock of them was kept at the house in Rathbone-place, and from February to July the prisoner and his wife occupied a portion of the premises. At the end of April the prosecutor thought from appearances, presented by dust on the walls, that some portions of the stock had been removed, and eventually it was found that the prisoner had been selling as waste paper quantities of it, and he was given into custody. He sold the greater portion to a butcher in White Lion-street, Seven Dials, and when charged he gave the address, 34, Dean-street, Soho. On proceeding thither both numbers and prints were found, and the prosecutor now swore that he never authorised the prisoner in any way to sell, barter, or dispose of any of them.—On his cross-examination, Mr. Carden admitted, after a great deal of hesitation, that there was a confectionary business carried on in a shop belonging to the house in Rathbone-place on his account. The prisoner's wife was there as his servant. He paid her no wages because she paid herself by taking all she got. It was agreed that she was to receive a salary. (He refused to say what the salary was until directed by the court.) It was 6s. a week, which sum was fixed, as she said it was the most she could ever earn by sitting at her needle all night long. From the 15th of March to the end of April he never went to the house. During that time he was on the Oxford circuit.—Mr. Parry (the defendant's counsel): Now, sir, as you have mentioned the Oxford circuit, allow me to ask you if they knew on that circuit that you are a confectioner, and not a barrister? (Loud laughter.)—Mr. Carden: Confectioner! Oh, I'm a tailor, and a number of other things besides.—Mr. Parry: I ask you on your oath whether you went the Oxford circuit in the ordinary sense of the term; that is, did you go with the members of the bar from town to town, dine with them and so on?—Mr. Carden: I attended the courts, and dined with the judges; and once at Stafford Mr. Baron Platt paid me the compliment of saying that I was the most indefatigable man he ever knew, and I intend to come to this court and practise, and then I'll let you see it. (Laughter.) In continuation he did not go that circuit during the time of the Exhibition, as he was a subscriber, and his business engagements prevented him. The publication of the "Court and Ladies' Magazine" was suspended at the time of the French revolution of February, 1848.—In further cross-examination, in answer to a question as to the value of the numbers of the magazine produced, he said they were valuable, as containing historical memoirs for 600 years, and the portraits accompanying them were executed in Paris, and that was the reason the revolution suspended the work. He told the prisoner when he went to lodge in the house to pack up the things lying about and arrange them, and he paid him a guinea for his services, from which he deducted 12s. for rent. There was a young woman named Chubb in the house. He allowed her to be there out of kindness, as she had been with the prisoner and his wife, and when they went to the house she had nowhere else to go to. There was a young woman named Slatter there to assist Mrs. Bailey. There was also a young

woman there named Oram. The Christian names of the two former young women were Sophia and Lousia. There were no others there having those names. Never, to his knowledge or with his permission, had these parties used old numbers of the magazine as waste paper in the confectionery business. He had heard that when the prisoner was given in charge he had said it was done because his wife had made complaints of his (prosecutor's) having made improper advances to her. Bailey had never complained, to his knowledge, of his having made improper advances to his wife.—Mr. Parry: Did he not complain to you that you had made improper advances to his wife, and did you not then charge him with this theft?—Prosecutor: I heard that such was the defence yesterday in the robing-room of this court.—Mr. Parry: You had no right there.—Prosecutor: Yes, I had. My wig and gown are there, and I mean to come and practise here.—Mr. Parry: I should like to know who you were with. I am glad to say none of the gentlemen of the bar frequenting this court were in your company. Now, sir—an answer; yes or no, to my last question.—The prosecutor continued: To his knowledge the prisoner never complained of anything of the sort; if he had, he would not have suffered him to remain in the house any longer. He would not swear that the prisoner had not made that charge against him. He had heard that such a charge was made. In March he heard that Bayley was jealous, but he did not hear in March that he had complained of his (prosecutor's) conduct to his wife. He never heard of such a complaint until after the prisoner was taken up. Never invited her to his chambers in Carey-street. He did not think she ever was there. He did not believe she ever was, but would not swear that she had never been there. Reverting to the confectionery business, he said he wished to say publicly that he had no profits from it, so the Commissioners of Taxes might make him pay. He paid Slatter 12s. a week to assist Mrs. Bayley. He paid the latter 6s. a week. He had paid Oram 7s. a week and 12s. a year. He gave Chubb what he pleased—no wages—just what he thought fit, like he did to public institutions. He kept the business on, and he should be glad to let it at any time to the learned counsel. The Judge said that he felt compelled to say that the prosecutor, for a person of his station, education, and experience, had given his evidence in a very improper manner; and the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty."

William Liss, a young man of dissipated appearance, was charged at the Worship-street police-court, on the 25th, with having *Violently Assaulted his Father*, an infirm and elderly man, carrying on business as a coal-merchant in Globe-road, Mile-end. The complainant, who was painfully affected while giving his evidence, stated that his son resided in his house, but that, in consequence of his violent temper and depraved habits, he was a complete terror to the family, and had only been recently released from prison, to which he had been committed for a brutal assault upon his mother. On the preceding afternoon, after conducting himself with outrageous violence, he absented himself from home, but returned back in the evening half drunk, and advancing towards the table where his father and mother were sitting at supper, caught up a joint of meat in his hands, and began ravenously devouring it. On being expostulated with by his mother, he knocked her out of her chair by a terrible blow in the face, and on witness hastening to her assistance he was also knocked down by the prisoner, who renewed the attack as he lay upon the floor, and dealt him several severe kicks on the lower part of his person, from the effects of which he was scarcely able to stand, and had been ever since in a state of extreme suffering. The prisoner then attempted to escape from the house, but was intercepted by some of the neighbours, whose attention had been attracted by the uproar, and who gave him into custody. The complainant exhibited the shirt he had worn at the time, which was torn, and stained with blood in several places; and he stated, in answer to questions from the magistrate, that his wife was still suffering so severely from the violence of her son, that she was confined to her bed, and was wholly unable to come forward in support of the charge. On being called upon for his

answer to the charge, the prisoner sullenly answered that he did not wish to say anything. Mr. D'Eyncourt strongly animadverted upon his brutal and unnatural conduct, and ordered him to pay a penalty of 5*l.*, or to be committed, in default, for two months to the house of correction.

Two Irish beggar-women, named Mills and Madden, were brought before the Lord Mayor, on the 25th, charged with having solicited, or rather, *demanding pecuniary relief*. The women, it appeared, had followed Mr. Solly, of Great Ormond-street, who has been long known to the poor all round the neighbourhood in which he resides for his charities, from the door of his house into the City, where he alighted from an omnibus opposite to the Mansion-house. The moment the old gentleman descended into the street, the defendants, who had travelled on the top of the vehicle at the rate of threepence each, dropped down, and began to shower their blessings upon him, and as Mr. Solly's fame had followed him all the way to the Union Fire-office, a crowd of mendicants surrounded him, in the hope of profiting by his hazardous benevolence. The difficulty of moving along the street would not, in all probability, have at all disturbed the serenity of his temper, but the officers found it necessary to interfere, in order to keep the great thoroughfare clear at so busy an hour of the day, and the most effectual plan they could adopt to remove such impediments was to lay hold of the two women, who had speculated upon the success of the journey, and to whom Mr. Solly had given several shillings, in order, no doubt, to induce them to go away. Mr. Solly was called as a witness. He said,—I have been in the law, but am not now, and I occasionally come into the City, to go to the Union Fire-office. I came yesterday in an omnibus, and got out opposite to the Mansion-house, between 11 and 12 o'clock. I do not know the older woman, but I have seen the other, and gave her perhaps a shilling or two now and then. The Lord Mayor: How much did you give her when you last saw her?—Mr. Solly: Perhaps I gave her 5*s.*—The Lord Mayor: Did she solicit charity?—Mr. Solly: Oh dear no. She is a decent poor woman—no beggar. A policeman said it was quite unnecessary for the followers of Mr. Solly to beg of him, as he was always ready and willing. Storey, one of the detective police-officers, said it was actually the fact, that a dozen beggar-women have gone into an omnibus the moment Mr. Solly has entered it; and it was a common practice with beggars of all kinds to ride on the top of his omnibus wherever he was going. The Lord Mayor: I have no doubt at all of the charitable disposition of Mr. Solly, and would not presume to offer any check to his philanthropy; but I cannot, as a magistrate, refrain from stating that mischief must arise from such an indiscriminate distribution of alms; and from such a practice of dispensing bounty as calls for the interference of the police. It is quite clear that numbers of impostors are on the look-out for the overflowings of so generous a heart, as the officers of the Mendicity Society, to whose exertions we owe so much, testify, and any one who looks into the newspapers must see the necessity of stopping the odious mode of raising money by tales of fictitious distress. Mr. Solly thanked the Lord Mayor with a smile, but quitted the justice-room apparently in the humour to make a further distribution of his bounty. The women were discharged.

The son of a respectable tradesman, named Phibbs, was brought before the magistrate at Bow-street on the 25th, charged by his father with *Embezzlement*. The father, who appeared much distressed, stated that his son had frequently taken his money and lost it on betting lists and at betting offices. He was a good workman, and could not well be done without. He had no desire to punish him, and hoped his worship's censure would have some effect. Mr. Henry seriously admonished the prisoner as to the evil course he was pursuing. The betting list would prove his ruin if he did not give up visiting the gambling offices. The young man expressed his regret, and said he had upon a late occasion given back a sovereign out of his winnings that he had taken. Mr. Henry committed him to prison for a week.

Another death among those shot by the military in

the *Affray at Sixmile-bridge* has rendered a second inquest necessary. The deceased, whose name was Molony, died in Barrington's Hospital, and the inquiry was commenced on the 25th in the Limerick city court-house. Sir Matthew Barrington, Bart., attended to watch the proceedings on the part of the crown. After the examination of several witnesses, who went once more over the same ground as before, the inquest was adjourned.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Mr. Samuel George Daniel, a master silk-winder, of Bethnal Green, was *Killed on the South-Eastern Railway*. Mr. Daniel was on his way, on the 24th ult., to join his wife and family at Ramsgate; he was in a third-class carriage. As the train passed through Ashford Station, he put his head out at the side; it struck against an iron pillar, and he fell back insensible into the carriage. As soon as a guard was made aware of the disaster, the train was stopped; but a surgeon deemed it most advisable to carry the sufferer to the hospital at Canterbury. He died there that night, from a fracture of the skull. When the coroner's jury met, it was resolved to apply to the railway department of the Board of Trade, that an inspector might report on the cause of the fatality. Captain George Wynne accordingly inquired into the matter, and made a report to the Board of Trade, which contains a succinct account of the causes of the accident, with some very important observations. After mentioning the circumstances of the accident, Captain Wynne adds:—

"The South-Eastern Railway Company have a considerable number of carriages of all classes of the same width—viz. 8 feet 6 inches—as the one from which the accident happened. The first and second class carriages have two bars across the windows to prevent passengers protruding their heads any distance out of the windows; why the same precautions were not adopted with the third-class carriages, I cannot understand. No time should be lost in putting bars to the windows of these carriages, sufficient in number to prevent the recurrence of such an accident. At the same time, I think it a matter for grave consideration whether the South-Eastern Company have not passed the limits of safety in constructing carriages of this extreme width. Absolute danger to life may be avoided by the precaution which has been adopted by placing bars to the windows, so that passengers cannot protrude their heads; but serious damage to limbs may occur by the common act of a person merely putting out his hand to ascertain the state of the weather; and when it is considered that the distance to the pillars is but 9½ inches, this is no extreme case; and to this danger children are particularly liable. The repugnance to the public of having themselves confined by barred windows was very strongly manifested when it was first put in practice on the North Kent line: and as I believe this occurred before the introduction of these carriages on the main line, the expression of the public opinion should have had some weight with the company, more especially when to the inconvenience is added a certain amount of danger to limbs."

Captain Wynne gave evidence before the coroner to the same purport as the report. The jury gave a verdict of "Accidental death;" but added, "We cannot separate without expressing our surprise and regret that so little care and attention is paid to the safety of persons travelling in the South-Eastern Railway Company's third-class carriages."

A *Fatal Accident on the North-Western Railway* took place on the 28th ult. When the train from Birmingham to London had reached the Berkswell cutting, the ash-pan, falling from the engine, struck against the frame-work of the break-van, broke away the couplings, and threw it on to the down-line. At this moment the train from Leamington came up, dashed into the break-van, glanced off into the leading second-class carriage, and smashed it in pieces; killing two persons on the spot, and inflicting hurts on many others. The Earl of Dartmouth was in a *coupe* of the up-train, but escaped unhurt, although the door of his carriage was splintered. The sufferers were sent on to Coventry, and well attended. One of the killed was Mr. Beddington, optician, of Birmingham; the other was a young man, son of Mr. Floyd, of Oxford. An inquest was held at Coventry on the 3rd inst. on the

body of Mr. Floyd. A great many of the superior servants of the North-Western Company were present, and they formed the principal witnesses. The tendency of their evidence was to show that the falling of the ash-pan had caused the accident. The engine-driver was of opinion that something hard had struck the pan; but nothing was found, neither did he feel the engine jerk at any point. And as the company's servants, to whom the duty of inspecting the engines is delegated, were all of opinion that the engine was sound when she started, the matter remained in complete mystery. But, after some discussion, it was agreed that a Mr. Moredale, a machinist independent of the company, should examine the engine. He reported, that "the thing was altogether in a bad state;" that the "iron-work belonging to the pan was decayed;" that the "snugs and ribs" were decayed; and that he should think the ash-pan "had fallen off from the decayed parts of iron;" but as the fire was in the engine, he could not closely examine it: he also complained that all the parts of the work were not there. The jury concurred in the main part of his opinion; and at length it was agreed that another inspection should take place when the engine was cool. The investigation was resumed on the 9th. Meanwhile Captain Laffan, Mr. Moredale, Mr. Fairbairn of Manchester, Mr. Kennedy of Liverpool, and Mr. Marshall of Birmingham, had examined the engine. Mr. Moredale adhered to his original statement, that the stays were decayed—one broken through, and two out of four faulty; and that the engine started in that condition; then the stay on the same side with the broken one gave way, and the ash-pan fell to the ground. Mr. Fairbairn described the construction of the ash-pan, and the method of fixing it on to the fire-box; and gave it as his opinion, that the ash-pan must have been broken away by coming in contact with some obstruction on the line—something weighing sixty-seven tons at least, dead weight; but he could not say what it could have been. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Kennedy agreed with him. Captain Laffan, the government inspector, deposed as follows: "I have seen the ash-pan, and have heard the evidence which has been adduced up to this time; I saw the ash-pan on Friday last, and again to-day; the ash-pan fell in consequence of the failure of the supports; such is my opinion. I see no appearance whatever to lead me to suppose that the failure of the ash-pan was owing to any accidental obstruction in the way; but I see every reason to believe the contrary. I see no reason to believe that there was any blow, but that the ash-pan fell in consequence of the failure of the supports, one giving way after another. There was some defect in the engine, I think, at the time of starting." Some further evidence was taken; and the jury returned the following verdict: "We are of opinion that the immediate cause of the accident was the defective state of the straps of the ash-box, thereby causing the death of William Floyd; and the jury cannot separate without expressing their decided opinion that the inspection of those constructed engines should be made more minutely and more frequently, so as to insure the safety of the public." Another inquest was held on the body of Mr. Beddington, the other sufferer, and was brought to a close on the 25th. The coroner addressed the jury, carefully analysing the conflicting evidence. He concluded by observing, that passengers were entirely at the mercy of the company; they had no means of signalling the engine-driver or the guard; they were obliged to place confidence in the company, it was therefore reasonable that the company should do all they could to carry their passengers as safely as was possible. He for one denied that there should be any distinction made as regarded the safety of first, second, or third-class passengers; the company was bound to provide carriages of sufficient strength for the safety of all, though there might be differences in the matter of comfort. If they were of opinion that any particular servant had not performed his duty, they would have to return a verdict of manslaughter. The jury returned the following verdict:—"We are unanimously of opinion, that the death of John Thomas Beddington was caused in consequence of the ash-pan having been severed from the engine, but the cause of such severance is not in evidence before the jury."

Coroner—"Gentlemen, the country is much indebted to you for the services you have rendered in this case; the verdict leaves the case where it stood at the outset." Such has been the termination of this protracted inquiry; the verdict on the first inquest was a decisive expression of opinion; the above verdict at Docker's-gate, is unmeaning. But the most remarkable fact in connection with the inquiry was the refusal of the coroner to call Captain Laffan, though requested to do so by the relatives of the deceased.

At the half yearly meeting of the London, Brighton and South-Coast Railway Company on the 2nd instant, Mr. Samuel Laing, the Chairman, made some remarks respecting *Railway Accidents* which have attracted much attention: He said: "The Directors thought it a great hardship that railway companies should be called upon to pay large sums for accidents over which they had no control, and which did not result from any false economy on the part of the company, but purely from accidental causes, over which they could have no more control than they could over the tire of a wheel flying off, or a flash of lightning striking the train. Railway companies are made insurers for all casualties which happen on their lines; while steam-packet companies are not. An accident happened a long time ago at New Cross, on a foggy day, in consequence of the man who went down the line showing a green instead of a red flag. A slight collision followed—'so slight' that no one seemed hurt; yet, twelve months afterwards, compensation was obtained by some persons, 'whose nerves, it was stated, had received a shock.' Compelling a company to pay compensation for accidents over which the directors really had no control, does not prevent the recurrence of these accidents. What he complained of was, that the principle of the Carriers Act was not carried out with regard to passengers. In that act it was provided that a carrier was not held responsible for damage to or loss of valuable goods, gold, silver, silk, &c., unless paid for accordingly. For instance, if an accident were to occur to one of their express-trains conveying half-a-dozen Bishops and the Lord Chancellor, through one of their men making a mistake, it seemed inconsistent that the company should have to pay 20,000*l.* for the Lord Chancellor, although he should pay no more than any other passenger (about 2*d.* per mile)."

At Mr. Tomkins's saw-mills, Old Gravel Lane, Wapping, the *Boiler Exploded* on the 2nd inst. Fortunately, most of the workmen had left the place to take their dinners. Charles Varrall, a bricklayer, was at work on a roof near the boiler-house, and he suffered dreadfully; he was alive when got out of the ruins, but died in two hours.—The Jury impanelled to inquire into the cause of the explosion and death returned the following verdict—"Accidental death, by the explosion of an engine-boiler, situated at Green Bank Saw Mills, Wapping; and the jury wish to add, they consider great neglect is attributable to Mr. Mark J. Tomkins, for allowing the boiler to be used after being repeatedly informed by the engine-driver of its unsound state; and they also exonerate the engine-driver from all blame."

A dreadful *Accident on the Midland Railway* occurred between Draycot and Borowash, on the evening of the 5th instant. While a train was proceeding to Derby at its usual rate of speed, the tire of the driving-wheel of the engine broke, and a portion of disengaged tire striking against the body of the engine, knocked off what is technically denominated the "clack-box" and the escape-tap; thereby causing two considerable openings into the boiler, through which the pent-up steam rushed out, filling the carriages with steam, and occasioning the greatest consternation among the passengers. In this dilemma, Job Kirk, the engine-driver, being apprehensive that the engine would run off the rails, and being at the same time unable instantly to bring the train to a halt, got upon the step opposite to the broken wheel, intending to leap off in case of necessity. While so standing, a sudden jerk, caused by the revolution of the imperfect tire against the engine, threw him from the step down upon the rails, and the train passed over him, fearfully crushing both his feet and ankles, and breaking both the bones of each of his legs. The stoker also leaped or was thrown off; but

fortunately escaped without further hurt than some severe contusions about the head and face. The Midland Company supply tourniquets to their trains; two were applied to the limbs of the sufferer, and he was conveyed to Derby. It was found necessary to amputate both legs; but the man is expected to recover. Kirk was considered one of the best engine-drivers on the line.

There was a great *Fire* at Tottenham very early on Sunday morning, the 8th inst. Tottenham Mills were very extensive premises, on an island surrounded by the Lea: one pile of building was an oil-mill, another a corn-mill, with the usual offices attached; and there were also dwelling-houses adjacent. The fire originated in the oil-mill, where extensive alterations were in progress; and thence it spread to the corn-mill, which was only eighteen feet distant; both the mills were destroyed, with some of the minor buildings and an old malt-house; the dwellings were but partially burnt. While the fire was raging, a large vessel filled with oil burst, and the flames ascended to a great height; other vessels subsequently gave way, and streams of blazing oil floated down the Lea. A great number of persons will be thrown out of employment by the disaster. The proprietor, Mr. Edward Bell, was partially insured.

Four men were *Killed by Lightning* during a violent thunder-storm at Manchester, on the morning of the 10th. Eight cottages were in course of construction in Ridgway Street, in the fields near Clayton Hamlet. The lightning struck the east corner of the block, entered the roof, and ran along the whole range, some portion descending to the earth by every window. All the people employed, and Mrs. Fletcher, wife of the owner, were struck by the lightning; some were not hurt much, but four were killed outright. The fatal strokes occurred at three distinct places, two of the sufferers having been sitting together on a window-sill, while the others were at work in different houses.

A *Serious Accident* on the Western Valleys Railway, which extends from Newport to Blaenau, took place on the 11th. The line was recently converted from a tramway, solely used for the conveyance of mineral and other heavy traffic, into a railway, but many of the objectionable features which marked it in its previous condition, such as great curves, &c., still remain. The train was proceeding along at its accustomed speed until nearing the curves, when the speed was decreased. Approaching Llanhithel, where there is a great curve, the speed was lessened, but suddenly a collision of all the carriages took place. On looking out the passengers were greatly alarmed to perceive that the engine had run off the line, and was lying, with one or two of the carriages, on its side in the ditch on the road side. Among the numerous passengers still in safety were two or three gentlemen who leaped through the fastened windows of their carriages, and hastened to the assistance of the sufferers. The driver was found unhurt by the road-side; but the stoker was discovered beneath the engine, some of the projecting portions of which were pressing into the poor fellow's body, and the escaping steam from one of the valves was scalding him where he lay groaning. After some time he was safely got out. Though found to be severely scalded, and greatly bruised, it was ascertained that no bones were broken. The passengers in the next carriage were released, suffering from contusions and bruises.

Mr. Frank Hartland, who was for many years a great favourite on the London stage as a pantomimist, was *Accidentally Killed* on the 16th. A plank having been detached from a building scaffold in Mount street, when he was passing, struck him with great violence on the side of the head, completely crushing in the skull. He died on his way to St. Thomas's Hospital. Mr. Hartland has left a large family, hitherto entirely dependent upon him, to deplore their untimely loss.

The emigrant ship the *Trusty*, of Scarborough, having on board nearly two hundred emigrants, has been *Lost* off the shores of Cape Graspe, while on a passage to Quebec. When the vessel struck, against the command of the master, one of the boats was lowered and cut away from the vessel. It contained in all, about twenty persons. An attempt was made to gain the shore, but the boat was capsized by it before

it had reached many yards from the wreck, and the whole of the helpless creatures perished. For eight hours the position of those on the wreck was one of great peril; the sea was sweeping over her decks, and it was expected every moment she would go to pieces. Soon after day had broken a schooner bore down to the spot, and, with the aid of the crews of two other vessels that came up, the whole that were clinging to the wreck were taken off in safety. Their luggage, however, was lost, for in a few days the vessel broke up, and was a total wreck. The emigrants have since been forwarded to Quebec.

Another dreadful *Railway Accident* has taken place, followed by the *Suicide* of a pointsman, through whose fault it appears (partly at least) to have happened. It was on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The train to which the accident occurred was the one leaving Liverpool, *via* Bolton, to Manchester at six in the evening, and due at Bolton at a quarter before nine. On the evening of the 24th, this train had lost time so considerably as to be nearly an hour late. When it arrived within a mile of Bolton, the station and all the intermediate distance were blocked up with trains which had arrived before it. The first of these, or at least the principal one, and the one leading to the detention of the others, was a very heavy passenger-train, consisting of 36 carriages, and did not arrive at Bolton until twenty minutes past nine. The passengers were partly travelling towards Manchester, but a great portion of them were for Yorkshire; and this is the station where the train had to be separated into two parts, one of which would have to leave the Manchester line for a mile further south to go *via* Bury, Heywood, and Rochdale, to Yorkshire. Unfortunately however, the carriages had been indiscriminately packed with passengers going in both directions, and full twenty minutes were lost in disentangling the mass and getting the right passengers into the right train. Whilst this train was at the station, a second, a third, a fourth, a fifth, and ultimately a sixth (the one smashed) came up. The second train was an excursion train of 36 carriages from Liverpool; the third was a luggage-train from Liverpool to Manchester; the fourth was an excursion-train of 25 carriages from Fleetwood (behind its time) to Manchester; the fifth was a luggage-train—principally laden with timber—from Liverpool to Bradford, Yorkshire. These five trains probably numbered altogether upwards of 150 carriages, and stretched over nearly a mile of the line, to a place called Bullfield, where a pointsman is placed, having charge of two signals upon a high post in the form of discs. The pointsman's cabin is close to his points, but the signals are 250 yards beyond (or further from Bolton), and are worked by means of a lever and a wire about six yards from the cabin. Beyond this cabin the line of trains stretched about 125 yards, or half way to the signal. The signal would have been seen for upwards of a mile in the Liverpool and Preston direction, had it been lighted, but it appears that the day's duty of pointsmen ordinarily ends at half-past eight in the evening, and he had left his post at a quarter to nine on this occasion, putting out the light at the signal on this as on other occasions, although it is alleged that he had received instructions that there would be extra or excursion-trains on this occasion, and that he must remain until they had all passed. The night was exceedingly dark, and when the sixth train (which was not an excursion or special train, but the regular late passenger-train from Liverpool to Manchester) came up, the driver would not come in sight of the preceding one, owing to the curve, until he reached the place where the signal post is placed, a distance of about 125 yards. Whether the driver was not on the look-out, or whether it was impossible for him to stop in so short space with a train of sixteen carriages going at a high speed, has not yet been ascertained; but the result was that he ran into the luggage-train with great force, and the collision was so fearful that the three first carriages (third class), were smashed very badly, the second one being turned up on its fore-end between the other two, with the ten passengers in it feet uppermost, and almost on their heads. The terror of the passengers was beyond description. It is said that their screams were heard at the distance

of more than a mile from the spot. It was found that fifteen passengers were injured, several of them dangerously, and one of them, a boy of twelve years old, was not expected to recover. After the accident Mr. Crowshaw, the clerk in charge of the station at Bolton, went to the house of the pointsman, Lee Bancroft, and asked him how it was he had not the signal lighted. Bancroft replied he did not know. He had put the light out at a quarter before nine o'clock, as usual, and then went home. On being asked if he had received a copy of the notice mentioned above, he replied in the affirmative, and said he had read it and the instructions at the foot. He assigned no reason for neglecting them, but said he did not think he was required to remain after a quarter to nine o'clock, which was his usual time for leaving. Mr. Crowshaw, however, told him he was to blame for leaving the signals when excursion trains were expected. About half-past twelve o'clock the same night, the unfortunate man was found suspended by his neckerchief from a large nail which he had driven into the top of his wooden sentry-box.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

The Registrar General's Return for the quarters ending March and June 1852, has been published. It comprises the births and deaths registered by 2190 registrars in all the districts of England during the spring quarter ending June 30; and the marriages in more than 12,000 churches or chapels, about 3228 registered places of worship unconnected with the established church, and 623 Superintendent Registrars' offices, in the quarter that ended March 31. The return of marriages is not complete; but the defects are inconsiderable, and approximate numbers have been supplied from the records of previous years.

The *Marriages* in the quarter ending March 31 were 32,933, consequently in the three months 65,866 persons were married; this slightly exceeds the numbers in the corresponding quarter of 1851, and is 10,906, or one fifth part, more than the numbers married in the winter quarter of 1847. The rate of marriages, after allowing for increase of population, is found to exceed the average of the season, and is only less than it was in the winter quarters of 1846 and 1851. The excess is distributed over nearly all the divisions of the country, but is most conspicuous in London, where the marriages in the winter quarter increased from 4377 in 1849 to 5576 in 1852. Marriages increased in St. George Hanover Square, and in Hastings, Brighton, Bath, Clifton, and other watering-places. The marriages in the south-eastern division also increased in Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire; decreased in Berkshire. There was an increase in Oxford and Cambridge; in Colchester and in Norwich; in Malmesbury and in Bradford (Wilts); also in Exeter; in Redruth, Cornwall, and in Bristol; in Hereford, Shrewsbury, and Stafford; in Wulstanton, and Burslem, among the Staffordshire potteries. The marriages in Birmingham were 390, or 44 less than in the previous winter. In Leicester and Nottingham the number of marriages has for the last two years exceeded the average. The marriages in the last quarter were also over the average in the districts of Derbyshire, in Stockport, Liverpool, Prescott, Wigan, Warrington, and Manchester. In Sheffield marriages were numerous; in several districts of Yorkshire below the average. In the northern counties the marriages exceeded the average; in Wales they declined from 1930 in 1851 to 1804 in the winter quarter of 1852.

The *Births* of 159,136 children, born alive, were registered in the quarter ending June 30. The same number, within two, was registered in the spring quarter of last year. The proportion of births to the population since 1849 has greatly exceeded the average of previous years.

As the births in the quarter were 159,136, the deaths 100,813, the *Increase of Population* by natural causes is 58,323. The increase in the previous quarter was 55,094; in the corresponding quarter of 1851, 59,499. In the quarter ending June 30, 1852, 125,112 emigrants

sailed from the ports of the United Kingdom, at which there are emigration agents; 21,890 sailed from Irish ports; 8687 from the Scotch ports of Glasgow and Greenock; and 94,535 from English ports—namely, 3224 from Plymouth, 15,304 from London, and 76,007 from Liverpool. It is known that a large but unknown proportion of the emigrants from Liverpool are of Irish origin, but the birthplace is not distinguished in the abstracts.

The *Price of Provisions* has varied little during the quarter; mutton and beef have, however, been a little cheaper than they were in the previous quarter: the price of wheat remains 40s. 10d. a quarter.

With regard to the *State of the Public Health*, the report gives the following particulars: The deaths in the spring quarter were 100,813, and the mortality was at the rate of 2.227 per cent. per annum, which is slightly above the average of the season. The excess of deaths was chiefly in the town districts, which still maintain their fatal pre-eminence over the country in destroying the lives of the population. The rate of mortality in the 506 districts, comprising chiefly small towns and country parishes, was 2.052; in the 117 town districts 2.436; so that out of the same population for every four deaths in the districts where the air and water are comparatively pure, there are nearly five deaths in London and our other towns, where all the sanitary arrangements are still left so imperfect that no improvement sensibly affecting the rate of mortality has hitherto been effected. In the three months that have elapsed 48,357 deaths have been registered in the town districts in the place of 40,000, who would have died if the mortality had not exceeded two per cent.; a standard of salubrity by no means high or unattainable. The season has been unusually cold, but food has been abundant; and from the notes of the registrars generally it may be inferred that the people are actively employed. Small-pox, scarlatina, hooping-cough, and typhus have prevailed to some extent, not only in London, but in many parts of the country; and persons with families, who are about to visit strange districts in search of health, will obtain information from the notes of the registrar, or by local inquiries, which may prevent their exposure to local epidemics. Much good has already been effected by the enforcement of sanitary regulations in lodging-houses. The registrar of North St. Giles says: "There is a decrease of one-fifth in the deaths, as compared with those of the corresponding quarter of last year, which I attribute to the sanitary arrangements enforced by the police, in making the landlords of the houses in Church Lane, and the Rookery, whitewash and cleanse them, and not allowing above a certain number of persons to sleep in the lodging-houses." The registrars of St. Ann, Nottingham, and of Cardiff, in South Wales, have recorded similar good effects from the supervision of the low lodging-houses. Public attention has been before called in these periodical reports to the neglect and ill-usage of children in the large towns of the country, and more particularly in Lancashire, where the mortality of children under five years of age is twice as high as it is in the healthiest counties, and much higher than it is in London.

The ceremony of *Placing the First Pillar of the New Crystal Palace at Sydenham* took place on the 5th inst., in the presence of a large and distinguished company. Mr. Laing, the chairman of the company, officiated. A bottle containing coins, and a paper containing the date and other particulars of the commencement of the edifice, having been placed under the pillar, it was screwed down by Mr. Laing, who afterwards addressed the assembly. The ceremony was followed by a collation, and speeches from Mr. Scott Russell, Sir Joseph Paxton, Sir C. Lyell, and other gentlemen. During the fête, a model of the structure was exhibited, with various plans and designs, which warrant the expectation of a higher artistic effect than that obtained in the strictly utilitarian building in Hyde Park. The roofing of the whole nave, as well as of the transepts, will be arched; the height of the transept will be increased by some sixty feet; towers will be added, terraces, and vast arched embrasures; the general effect being greatly improved

by festoons of vegetation and flowers hanging from the roof and trailed along the pillars.

Last year during the period of the Great Exhibition, an association was formed, composed of some very distinguished men, native and foreign, for the purpose of promoting a *Cheap and Uniform System of Colonial and International Postage*. But since the latter days of the Exhibition, when one meeting was held, the association appears to have slept, until this week. A meeting was held, at the house of the Society of Arts, on the 10th inst., and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted—

"That it appears to this association, that all the arguments used by Mr. Rowland Hill in favour of the justice of a uniform rate of postage apply certainly to colonial and probably to foreign correspondence. That the cost of conveyance, as was proved by Mr. Rowland Hill, depends upon the number of letters, and not upon the distance; and that therefore the justice of a uniform rate is evident. That the association welcomes the recognition of this principle in the recent adoption of uniform rates for printed papers to some of our colonies. That the simplicity and convenience of prepayment also appear to apply to colonial and foreign correspondence."

Earl Granville has consented to become president of the association.

The *Royal College of Physicians* has received a new charter, by the provisions of which some important changes are introduced into its constitution. Its designation is changed from that of "Royal College of Physicians of London" to that of "England," and its "licentiates," no longer so termed, but "members." All medical practitioners will be eligible to its membership who possess the degree of "M.D." from any university in the United Kingdom, or have received licence to practise from the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, Dublin or Edinburgh; and, under certain conditions, medical practitioners who exceed forty years of age, and are in practice.

The *Annual Show of the Northumberland Agricultural Society* was held at Belford on the 10th inst. It was an average exhibition in respect of stock, and superior in point of implements. There was afterwards a dinner at the Railway Hotel. Earl Grey presided. Among the guests were Lord Lovaine, M.P., Sir George Grey, Sir Mathew Ridley, the Honourable H. T. Liddell, M.P., Mr. H. G. Liddell, M.P., and other gentlemen. Lord Grey complimented the county generally; spoke warmly of the great improvements made in agriculture of late years, and in the dwellings of the labourers. On this latter topic all the speakers were especially eloquent. Mr. Liddell complimented the Duke of Northumberland, and Lord Lovaine returned the courtesy by praising Earl Grey. "The progress of agricultural science might be traced in what was going on at Howick, and it was written in the crops there as plainly as in any book that ever was printed." Sir George Grey testified from his own observation to the "great, marked, and rapid improvements which had taken place of late years in the skill and industry, and general progress of the northern division of the county of Northumberland." The prizes were distributed by Earl Grey.

A *Return* has been published of the sales in the Encumbered Estates Court in Dublin, from the opening of the commission until the 9th instant, when further sales in Dublin were suspended until after the summer vacation.

"The number of estates sold was 777 in 4083 lots.

Court sales	£4,715,257 10 0
Provincial sales	1,636,198 0 0
Private sales	1,002,280 12 8½

Total, £7,353,736 2 8½"

A Treasury order has been issued, *Prohibiting the Vending of Chicory under the name of Coffee*, but leaving every dealer at liberty to dispose of each article under its proper name.

An instance of the good that may be done in the way of improving the *Sanitary Condition of Towns* under the Public Health Act, has been exhibited in the little town of Sandgate in Kent. For 2550l. the town has been supplied with good water and thoroughly drained. The water is obtained from the Greensand Hills, immediately in the rear of the town, by deep under-drainage

of a small area; it is received into two small covered reservoirs, and distributed by gravitation on the principle of constant pressure. It is softer than the water hitherto obtained from wells. Every house is drained by means of stone-ware pipes; and the sewage is carried into the sea at low-water mark. Sandgate has a population of about 1500: the money has been raised on the security of the rates, and the debt will be liquidated in thirty years by a charge of 1s. 1½d. in the pound upon the present house property—of course to be reduced as building extends.

The cattle-show of the *Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland* held at Galway, has far surpassed any previous exhibitions in the quality of the stock. The Earl and Countess of Eglinton and many distinguished persons were present; among them, the Duke of Leinster and Lord Clancarty.

The half-yearly general court of governors of the *Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society*, and the election of 15 children, viz. 5 girls and 10 boys into this asylum, was held on the 13th, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Mr. Henry Pownall presided. The report, which was read by the secretary, after setting forth the benefits which have been derived from the institution since their last meeting, states that as the charity is solely dependent upon voluntary benevolence, and as the claims of families, suddenly reduced from prosperity to destitution, are still hourly increasing, the committee finds itself compelled to make an earnest appeal to the benevolent public for further assistance. The report then states that their claims upon the benevolent are still further strengthened by the late disastrous calamities to the orphan school at Paris, and to the ill-fated ships, the *Amazon* and the *Birkenhead*, and concludes by stating that two donations of 500l. had been promised to meet a certain sum by similar amounts; and with the unanimous resolutions of two general courts, an important alteration in their rules would take effect at the ensuing election, whereby every vote would be carried to the credit of the candidates for three successive elections. The report having been adopted, Mr. Henry Pownall, Mr. Alderman Wilson, the Hon. Wm. Ashley, and Mr. John Carr Glynn, M.P., were elected as trustees.

The first meeting of the *Metropolitan Board of Sewers*, as re-constituted by the new commission, was held on the 31st ult. Major Dawson described the task which awaits the Commissioners, and the means which they possess of accomplishing it. In the ensuing year they will be required to meet the ordinary expenditure on works of sewerage, amounting to nearly 50,000l. The new works urgently needed in various parts of the metropolis will demand 280,000l.; while the main arterial system of drainage must still remain untouched until the commission can find the means of raising an additional fund considerably exceeding a million sterling. After paying the current expenses, the Board will have at its disposal only a balance of about 96,000l.; and consequently, not only will no progress be made with a comprehensive system of sewerage, but works, which are even more immediately necessary, and which are estimated at a cost of more than 180,000l., will be unavoidably neglected.

Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, the member for Boston, has lately completed a most extensive purchase—the whole of the town of Cromer with the exception of two houses, and about 12,000 acres of land. The purchase-money amounts to upwards of 60,000l. The property was lately possessed by the Misses Wyndham, two old ladies, who were much averse to improvements and alterations. To the inhabitants of Cromer the change of proprietorship is likely to be most beneficial, as Mr. Cabbell has given orders for the laying out of new streets, and other extensive alterations and improvements.

A portion of the *Census Returns of Ireland*, showing the area, population, and number of houses, by townlands and electoral divisions, in the *County of Wexford*, has been printed by command of her Majesty. It appears by the poor-law valuation of Ireland, made in 1851, that the unions in the county were valued at 330,337l. 2s. 3d.; but, by the government valuation of the county, made by Mr. Griffiths in 1817, the value was stated to be 390,177l. 11s. 7d. The area of the county contain

573,199 acres. The population, according to the census of 1841, was 202,033—viz., 97,918 males and 104,115 females. The population, by the last census (1851), was 179,793—viz., males 88,770, females 93,020. The decrease of population, therefore, in the ten years, amounts to 22,243. The total number of inhabited houses in the county in 1841 was 33,507; of uninhabited, 1108; and building, 102. The total number of inhabited houses in 1851 was 29,479; of uninhabited, 1776; and building, 50. The result of the return, therefore, shows a decrease of population of 22,243; of inhabited houses, 3828; and of houses building, 52. The only increase shown by the return is in the number of uninhabited houses, which presents an increase, in 1851, of 668 as compared with 1841.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen, Prince Albert, and the Royal Family, have paid a visit to the King and Queen of the Belgians, and are preparing to go to their Highland residence of Balmoral.

The Marquis of Londonderry has renewed his remonstrances to President Bonaparte in behalf of Abdel Khader, reminding him of his promises last year. But the Marquis's letters, written with his characteristic warmth, have received no notice from the French Ruler; and Lord Londonderry, in his last letter dated the 9th instant, speaks with natural indignation of M. Bonaparte's discourtesy and duplicity.

"Mon Prince," he says, "I could not have conceived it possible, after our former intimate relations, and my letter of 3rd May last, (sent through your Ambassador in London,) that you should have shown me so little courtesy as again not to vouchsafe any reply. Such a course cannot now be from accident or occupation, but must be from design; and I have only to leave the world and Europe to judge, by the immediate publicity of our correspondence, between my humble and repeated solicitations and your word of honour, pledged to me that, sooner or later, you would liberate Abdel Khader.

"Mon Prince, if any event could hasten your mind to adopt the Emir's liberation more than another, it would be the sudden and lamented death of your former intimate friend and companion Alfred d'Orsay. You cannot but know, mon Prince, he anxiously aided me in our common and unceasing efforts to bring your conscience to a clear sense of what was promised under your own hand; and his important letter I now annex in attested copy. I forbear adding the lengthened former details that have been already published; but I would place on record communications from that highly talented spirit that has flown to that Tribunal before which we must all appear. If, to show his deep sympathy, together with my own, ought can move your Highness to act nobly, generously, and bravely, it will be the words of your departed friend. Girardin, your great and gifted

writer, has proclaimed, 'Palaces have only two doors open to truth, the door of friendship and the door of adversity—of friendship, which is to adversity what lightning is to thunder, invisible justice, equal justice for all. The justice of which death holds the scales counts days when it does not measure gifts.'

"Remember, mon Prince, there is but one step between us and death. If the Emir languishes and dies in prison, who would be in your Imperial robes—who would envy blighted faith and broken promises?

"I remain, mon Prince, an Irish soldier, devoted to military honour and well-deserved glory. YANE LONDONDERRY."

Michel Ney, the grandson of the famous Marshal, has entered the seventh regiment of French dragoons as a private soldier.

Mr. Samuel Warren, Q.C., author of numerous works, popular and professional, has been appointed to the Recordship of Hull. He succeeds the late Mr. T. C. Granger, M.P.

The statue to the memory of the late Sir Robert Peel, raised by subscription in the borough of Leeds, was publicly inaugurated on the 20th inst., with becoming ceremony, and amid thousands of spectators, including all ranks, from the peer to the humblest artisan. The general body of shopkeepers in Leeds kept the day as a holiday; and as the inauguration took place between twelve and one o'clock at noon, the dinner hour for all the factory hands, a favourable opportunity was afforded for their attendance, which they did not fail to embrace.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

ALFRED COMTE D'ORSAY died at Paris, on the 3rd inst., aged 54.

JEFFERY HART BENT, Esq., Chief Justice of British Guiana, died on the 29th of June, aged 72.

THE HON. WM. ROBERT BURRELL, brother of Lord Willoughby D'Eresby, died at Calais, on the 27th ult., in his 64th year.

THE HON. RICHARD WATSON, of Rockingham Castle, died at Hamburg, on the 26th ult.

SIR JOHN WESTWORTH LORING, K.C.B., K.C.H., Admiral of the Blue, died at Ryde, on the 29th ult., in his 77th year.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR T. DOWNMAN, K.C.B., Commandant of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich, died there suddenly, on the 10th inst.

LORD KENSINGTON died on the 10th inst., in the 76th year of his age. He is succeeded in his title by his eldest son, the Hon. W. Kensington, a commander in the navy.

VICE-CHANCELLOR SIR JAMES PARKER died at his country seat, Rothby Temple, in Leicestershire, on the 13th inst., in his 49th year.

MADAME MARIA MAZZINI, the mother of Joseph Mazzini, late triumvir of the Roman republic, died of apoplexy, at Genoa, on the 9th inst.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF HAMILTON, Premier Peer of Scotland, died at his house in Portman Square, on the 17th inst., in his 83th year.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

By the *Bombay Overland Mail* of the 5th of July we learn that the Burmese made a second attempt to retake Martaban on the 26th of May, but were driven back. On the 3rd of June, Pegu was taken, and its fortifications destroyed by a detachment of the force under General Godwin. Our loss was very insignificant. By the steamer which arrived from Rangoon on the 21st of June, with dates of the 20th, all was quiet, and the troops enjoying good health.

The *West India Mail* has brought accounts from the different colonies, to the end of last month. In *Jamaica*, small-pox was virulent at various points, but somewhat on the decrease at Kingston. St. Thomas-in-the-East, an estate of 1600 acres, with good dwelling house and some 5000. worth of new machinery, had been sold for 1,000*l*. In consequence of the alarming spread of the small-pox in Kingston, orders had been issued to the troops stationed at Up Park camp to keep within barracks for the present. A similar order was to be issued to the soldiery in Kingston Barracks, and all communication between them and the civilians would be prevented for the time.

Barbadoes had been favoured with its wonted sunshine and showers, whereby a crop of 48,500 hogsheads

had been shipped off, and an equally good one is anticipated for the coming year. The island was generally very healthy.

The recent advices from Georgetown, in *Demerara*, confirm a previous report of the discovery of gold in that colony. Two persons had arrived at different periods within the last few weeks, bringing accounts of the existence of the metal in the interior, together with specimens, which sold respectively for 240 and 800 dollars. A party of twenty young white men had already set off on a digging expedition; and the planters were in great alarm, as it was feared that the general business of the country would be thrown into confusion.

Intelligence from the *Cape of Good Hope* has been received to the 3rd of July. It is very unsatisfactory, and gives no prospect of a termination of the war. The details consist of narratives of marauding inroads by the Caffres; captures of cattle, followed by pursuit and recapture; skirmishes, military forays, murders; seizures of the mail; and other matters which go to make up what is called the Caffre war. The depredations have been committed within the colony, which is represented as swarming with small parties of Hottentots.

In one instance a soldier of the Second Queen's was shot while cutting wood within three hundred yards of Fort Cox; in another, a Hottentot boldly entered a camp, and mounting a horse, rode off. The Caffres annoyed General Yorke's camp at Line Drift by firing the surrounding grass. Spans of oxen continued to be taken in or near the camps. Caffre fires were constantly visible from Fort Beresford. At Eiland's Kloof, a place about four miles from Graham's Town, four spans of oxen, some cows, and a mare, were swept off, on the 2d of June. The mail from Graham's Town was captured on the 6th. These are some characteristic but minor incidents of the war. In every instance the Hottentots, as usual, fly before any considerable forces.

On the 13th June, thirty-five Sappers and Miners under Colonel Moody, escorting five waggons containing stores, Minié rifles, and ammunition, were on their way from Graham's Town to head quarters at Fort Beaufort. They had rested at Fort Brown, and were a little beyond the Konap Post, when they were fired on by Hottentots in ambush. The first volley killed and wounded several men. The fight continued for half an hour; the Sappers fired away nearly all their ammunition, and were gradually beaten back to Fort Brown. The waggons were then plundered, chiefly of the Minié rifles and the ammunition. The Hottentots fled on the approach of a party from Fort Brown. Nine Sappers were killed, and ten wounded. It was thought that the Hottentots were perfectly informed of the movements of the escort, and that the ambush was regularly planned.

In another attack on the Camp of Uhaalder, a rebel Hottentot, on the 15th June, a Cape Coast Corps sergeant was found among the rebels, and hanged on the spot.

General Cathcart had intimated his intention of establishing a mounted Rural Police, which would probably perform services similar to those so effectively rendered by the police which hunted out the last of the Australian Bushrangers. In addition to this, he had gone over a great deal of ground, in order that he might become personally acquainted with the country; and he intended to establish a line of defensive posts within the colony. But his most important and latest act was to issue a proclamation, on the 1st of July, stating that, in consequence of the non-payment of the fine imposed on Krelbi by Sir Harry Smith, General Cathcart would collect a sufficient force "on the Umvani River, near Bram Neck, midway between Shiloh and the White Kei; and that it was further his intention with this force to cross the Kei, and establish his head-quarters at Krelbi's Great Place." General Cathcart also commands "all Burghers of the divisions of Graaf Reinet, Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, Somerset, Cradock, Albany, Albert, Victoria, Fort Beaufort, and Colesberg, capable of bearing arms, to take the field upon the old Commando system of the colony," and join him at the appointed place on the 6th of August. Moreover, he promises "the colonists of all classes, who shall voluntarily join in this great Commando, that all cattle that may be captured by them shall be divided amongst the captors, for their own use and benefit, according to such equitable division as may be determined on by their own commandants."

Major Hogge died, at Bloem Fontein, on the 9th June, of a fever, supposed to have been caught in the country of Moshesh. He was one of the Commissioners sent out from England last autumn to settle the affairs of the Orange Sovereignty. His loss is regarded as a calamity by the whole Cape Colony, and he is spoken of in the same warm terms by the journals of all parties.

Accounts from the various gold fields of Australia have been received to the middle of May last.—From Melbourne we learn that the miners have recommenced their labours with great energy. A large nugget—the largest yet—had been found opposite Golden Gulley, which is said to be worth 2000*l*. Many fatal accidents had occurred, owing to men falling into deserted holes or the earth falling in upon them when unmining, and the want of due care. At Ballarat the miners were comparatively inactive. At Forest Creek there had been a few showers, but not enough to affect the water holes. The miners were looking with no little trepidation for the approach of winter. To the greater number

of diggers it would be their first winter in the bush. The commissioners had relaxed their vigilance in exacting the license fee; so that there was no ground for provoking opposition, or the resistance threatened a few months ago. The price of gold at Melbourne was 58*s*. per ounce, and not likely to advance until the advent of English capital, money being more scarce than in Adelaide. The diggers at Coghill's Creek, distant fifteen miles from Ballarat, were doing well. At Cape Otway, also, the miners were reaping a good reward for their labours. The place is situated at the foot of the ranges, about eighteen miles from the coast, and about six from the head of the Barwon. Letters from Mount Alexander notice that more than a hundred men were employed in making roads, and orders have been given to the chief commissioner that reserves should be made for roads through the diggings. The Melbourne newspapers contain innumerable instances of violence, murders, affrays, night and day robberies, sufficiently attesting the character of hundreds of wretches who have resorted to the place for the basest purposes.

The accounts from Adelaide state that several recent instances had occurred of footpads attacking persons after dark for the purpose of plunder. In example of the footpads at Melbourne the ruffians attacked every one they met in the street after dark. Many men without a farthing in their pockets had been ill-treated, but the robbers occasionally secured a good prize. Such a state of things had induced the authorities to augment the police force. Considerable difficulty was experienced from the paucity of silver coin, and to meet the exigencies of the case it was suggested that one of the banking companies should issue five and ten shilling notes, which would be readily adopted by the community; and it was believed that the destruction of notes which invariably results from a small note circulation would justify the expense and trouble incurred by issuing notes of small value. The city and district of Adelaide—indeed, the entire province of South Australia, which, a few months since, were cheerless and comparatively deserted—had once more a busy and happy population, the result of the opening of the overland route to the diggings at Mount Alexander, and the expected issuing of gold bars from the Adelaide mint; the arrivals of gold by the escort having been made with great regularity, the aggregate in two months having exceeded 350,000*l*., and there being a fair promise of about a ton of gold reaching monthly. Emigration to Melbourne still went forward with much activity, but most of the men's families were left behind, and remittances sent to them by the government escort. Port Phillip journals to the first week in May notice that the lieutenant-governor was making arrangements to stem the torrent of crime pouring upon the province; he had authorised the erection of six out-stations at Mount Alexander, each to accommodate an assistant commissioner, with a staff of officers, three horse and sixteen foot police, two police magistrates, stations and barracks for pensioners. The salaries of assistant commissioners had been increased from 300*l*. to 400*l*. per annum, and their establishments in proportion. The iron auxiliary screw steamer *Consido*, from San Francisco, was running regularly between Melbourne and Sidney. The ordinary revenue at Melbourne for the quarter ending March 31st, was 75,272*l*., and the territorial revenue 156,827*l*., the total being an increase over the same quarter in the previous year of 182,981*l*.

The latest accounts from Hobart Town, *Van Diemen's Land*, are to the 1st of April. Gold, it is stated, has been discovered in the country lying between Fingal and Avoca. It is little more than speculation at present, as no gold in any quantity has been brought in; but the *Hobart Town Guardian* says that "all doubt" of its existence is at an end, and that two hundred men are at work in "the diggings."

A letter from an officer of the 99th regiment, now quartered in Van Diemen's Land, which has appeared in the newspapers, gives the following account of the *State of the Military Service there*:

"We are very badly off for men. Captain B— has gone to Melbourne with a hundred pensioners, as we had no men to

give. Gold has now been discovered at a place called Campbell Town, about fifty miles from here. I marched through it the other day, when they were prospecting for it. I saw a lump of gold yesterday, which a man found, valued at 1500*l*. Think of that. One young fellow, who was a clerk in the Australian Bank, at 140*l*. per annum, left for the diggings, and has just returned with an immense sum of money. In consequence of the extravagant price of everything here, I find it hard enough to rub it out. We have, on an average, to pay 25*s*. a month over our pay, as contributions to our mess and band, and that without indulging in the slightest luxury whatever. Colonel Despard has written home to have our pay increased, as we cannot live on it. One poor fellow is ruined by it already. Lieut. —, of ours, after seven years' service, threw up commission and all, and went off to the diggings. I am afraid if something is not done, the regiment will soon be without officers or men."

The *New Brunswick* journals report that the first locomotive engine in that province had just been put in motion on the opening section of the St. Andrew's and Quebec Railway.

A new *British Colony* has been established in the Bay of Honduras. This event is announced by the following proclamation.

"This is to give notice, that her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen has been pleased to constitute and make the islands of Rnatan, Bonacca, Utilia, Barbarat, Helene, and Morat to be a colony, to be known and designated as 'The Colony of the Bay Islands.'"

"By command of her Majesty's Superintendent,
"AUGUSTUS FREDERICK GORE, Acting Colonial Sec.
"God save the Queen."

"Colonial Secretary's Office, Belize, British Honduras,
June 17, 1852."

The journals of the United States look upon this proceeding with suspicion; and observe, that this new station will serve for similar uses in the Carribean Sea which Gibraltar and Malta serve in the Mediterranean.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

The number of *Emigrants* that left Liverpool during the month of July, including those for Australia from the government depot at Birkenhead, was 21,325. The number in the corresponding month last year was 13,770. The emigrants bound for America were composed almost entirely of Germans and Irish. Three large ships—the *Dinapore*, the *Admiral*, and the *Chalmers*—containing an aggregate of about 800 emigrants, sailed from Gravesend, on the 1st inst., for Port Philip. The *Chalmers* carried several of Mrs. Chisholm's groups, mustering 250 strong. On the 2nd, the *Northumberland*, carrying some thirty-six distressed needlewomen, from the Female Emigration Society, set out for the same destination.

The twelfth report of the *Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners*, that for 1851, has just been issued. In the twenty years ending 1851, no fewer than 2,640,848 persons emigrated from the United Kingdom: more than one half of this emigration occurred in the last five years. In 1851 there was the largest number in any one year—335,966: this exceeds the largest estimate of the annual increase of population in these isles. But the great majority of those who emigrate are Irish: it is estimated that in ten years 1,289,133 Irish people have sought new homes across the ocean. The commissioners prognosticate that this stream of emigration of the young and vigorous, leaving behind the old, the feeble, and the destitute, must end in the desertion of Ireland by its Celtic population. The money sent home from North America during the four years, from 1848 to 1851, or contributed as prepaid passage-money, amounted to no less a sum than 2,947,000*l*. The amount so paid in 1848 was 460,000*l*; in 1849 it was 540,000*l*; in 1850, 957,000*l*; in 1851, 990,000*l*. The amount expended out of the public funds for the conveyance of emigrants was, up to the end of 1851, about 800,000*l*; of which about 4500*l*. was derived from parliamentary votes for sending out free emigrants to those colonies which have received convicts, and 102,000*l*. obtained from the emigrants themselves. The remaining sum of about 653,000*l*. was furnished from the land revenues of New South Wales and South Australia, or the general revenue of the Cape of Good

Hope. Judging from the numbers that have emigrated during the first four months of the present year, the total for 1852 promises to be far higher than in 1851—perhaps even 500,000*l*.

The Liverpool magistrates have ordered the charterer of an Australian emigrant ship to *Repay the Passage-Money* of an intending passenger, with 3*l*. compensation, as the ship did not sail for fifteen days after the time announced when the berth was engaged; the charterer not having paid the owners the sum agreed upon.

The sitting magistrate at the Mansion House ordered Mr. Thomas Woolley, a ship-broker, to *Return 10*l*. Passage-Money* paid by Mr. Bastard, with 6*l*. compensation, the Australian packet in which Mr. Bastard had taken a passage not having sailed for more than a month after the time appointed. Counsel for Mr. Woolley contended that the applicant was entitled only to 1*s*. a day subsistence-money; but the alderman construed the act of parliament differently. An appeal was threatened. A number of other passengers who had been disappointed consented to abide by the arbitration of Captain Lean, the government emigration agent, as to the compensation they should receive for the delay.

A meeting of the *Emigrants' Aid and Transit Society* was held at the Apollonicon Rooms on the 17th. Lord Erskine presided. There was a crowded attendance, and many females were present. Mr. Guedalla, a gentleman who had resided some years in Australia, gave an explanation of the principles and objects of the society. He noticed the rapid progress of the colony of Victoria, only settled in 1835. With a population of 60,000, its exports amount to 12*l*. per head of the population, and the imports to between 8*l*. and 10*l*. He recommended emigration, not for the sake of the gold diggings, at which he believed a short spell would sicken most who went out; but that they might put their shoulders to the wheel, and engage in the staple labour of the colony, sheep-farming. It was the great object of this society to carry out an organised system of emigration, as recommended by Mrs. Chisholm. The directors of the society would make it their business to superintend the fittings and arrangements of the vessel, and in particular the dietary, over which but a very partial supervision could be exercised by the government inspector. The society had a respectable agent in the colony, Mr. W. Hawkins, through whose means those emigrants who were fortunate in the colony could arrange for the sending out of their relatives, thus avoiding the danger of sending over remittances in specie. The committee of the society were not a body of speculators seeking to send up their shares in the market; their sole object was the benefit of the emigrants, a fact which was attested by the society receiving the sanction of the Right Hon. Lord Erskine. The members of the society were divided into two classes—emigration classes, and colonising classes; the weekly or monthly payments of the former were applied to enable them to proceed to Australia; in the latter they formed a fund for the purchase of freehold land in Australia. At present, the number of government licenses for the diggings taken out and paid for was 12,811. The prices of labour were enormously high, but they would be considerably reduced when the thousands of emigrants arrived who had left this country in the course of the spring and summer. A resolution was unanimously passed, declaring that co-operation, through the efforts of the working classes, unaided by any kind of charity, was the true principle on which any system of emigration should be founded, and that the plan proposed by this society afforded the best means of accomplishing that object.

Official returns have been published, showing the number of *Emigrants to Australia* during the years ending the 30th of April 1851, and 1852, both unassisted and in government emigration ships. The numbers are:—

	1851.	1852.
To New South Wales	852	4,583
" Victoria	1,941	7,634
" South Australia	2,889	3,822

An increase, in twelve months, of from 5676 to 16,039 or of 10,363 individuals.

It is to Victoria that there has been the most marked

increase of emigration from this country, as the numbers who went out to New South Wales in the year ending April 30, 1849, exceeded the numbers of the year to April 30, 1852, by 5101 to 4583; and in South Australia, during the same relative terms, by 6363 to 3822; while the amount of emigration to Victoria (7634) is greater in the year just past than in any former year, the nearest approach to it being in 1849, when the number of emigrants was 6049.

These facts show that the gold is the great attraction, for, while it is not difficult to obtain ordinary labour in New South Wales or South Australia, it is not obtainable in Victoria. It appears by a communication made to Sir J. Pakington of the date of April 24, 1852, that there were 30,000 men engaged at the gold diggings in Victoria alone, 15,000 of that number having been diverted from their previous occupations in that province, and probably 5000 from the adjoining colony of South Australia. The remaining 10,000 is to be accounted for principally by the emigration from this country. There are at present, according to the official returns, no fewer than 117 ships and vessels in the United Kingdom entered outwards for ports in the Australian colonies nearest the gold-diggings. Of these forty-four are loading at the out-ports, and seventy-three in the port of London. In the latter number there are for Port Philip, Melbourne, and Geelong fifty-five, and for Sidney eighteen. These vessels vary in tonnage from 300 to 1000 tons, and two or three of a larger amount; all are fitted up for the conveyance of passengers, and are to sail for their respective destinations during the present month. Admitting that on an average each vessel will carry sixty emigrant adults and children, the total number would be 7020, or nearly one-third of the emigration to the Australian colonies, including New Zealand and Van Diemen's Land, that took place from the United Kingdom during 1851, the number as stated by her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners being 21,532.

The *Times* gives extracts of a letter from a young man now at Adelaide to his parents in this country, which contains some points of information that may be useful to persons intending to emigrate. The letter is dated March 1st, and begins by stating that "trade in Adelaide is at an end, and the town deserted," there not being more than 100 men at that date in the colony. Last December the writer joined a party who travelled on foot overland 500 miles to Mount Alexander to work at the diggings, but, not liking his companions, he returned to Adelaide by sea, and was about to start afresh with more congenial associates. He thus describes the labours and sufferings he underwent in his gold-digging excursions:—"I have been ten weeks sleeping on the ground, without a bed, and for weeks not undressed. I have gone through swamps up to the middle in water, traversed burning-hot sands, deserts thirty miles across—travelled under a scorching sun, nearly dead with thirst, and for days not able to wash myself, from want of water. One of our party was killed on the road, and we had to bury him 200 miles from home." Again:—"The gold is not to be obtained without hard work, such as labouring men can hardly endure. Advise every one who is getting a good living in England to remain." Thousands, he anticipates, will be disappointed; and he observes that none are fit for the diggings who cannot sleep under a tree in the open air, drink water of all colours, go for a week unwashed and unshaved, and submit to be overrun with vermin. "The Californians are coming over. There are about 30,000 diggers at present, all well armed. Hitherto they have successfully resisted the attempts of government to overtax them. They have commenced Lynch-law, and the sooner it gets general the better, to get rid of the hordes of ruffians who are prowling about. Lynch-law has no terrors for an honest man." Provisions are very high: the 4lb. loaf, 1s. 9d.; butter and cheese, 5s. a pound; and everything else in proportion. The writer, who hopes to make his fortune at the diggings, expresses his intention of returning to South Australia to spend the remainder of his days in that colony, which he has no doubt will in a year or two become exceedingly prosperous.

Mrs. Chisholm addressed a large public meeting in the Parochial School-room, Clapham Common, on the evening of the 23rd, on the subject of *Family Colonization*. The Rev. S. Bower, the Rector, presided. Before she began her address, it was stated that just before the opening of the meeting, the chairman had received a letter warning him from taking the chair, because Mrs. Chisholm was a Roman Catholic. When she came forward, she was loudly cheered. She said this was the first time she had appeared on a public platform, and she felt diffident in addressing them. It was a great trial for her to do so, but in great trials they met with great support, and it was a comfort to her to feel that if the day of persecution had not gone by, there were some minds filled with that charity which God gave to bless. She believed that if she honestly did what was right the clergy of the Church of England would help her. She had had sixty families at one time under her care at Sydney, and anxious that they should get a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, she had entreated them not to accept government work at a lower rate, which would have pauperised them, and she had gone with them into the interior, and though there was only one complete set of agricultural implements for 30 families, yet some of these parties were now remitting 60*l.* each to aid the emigration of their friends, and there was not one of them that was not now in good circumstances, and able to give his 5*l.* subscription for any public object. In commencing her work with single female emigrants she commenced with two, one a Roman Catholic and the other a Protestant, and she kept them till she found them situations, and hundreds and thousands had been thus provided for. Her being a Catholic was the one thing brought against her. But the Bishop of the Church of England in that colony was a noble-minded man; he did not privately slander, but his chaplain was directed to write to her, and to put a few plain questions. These questions were as plainly answered, and to this day there was a good feeling between them. After her return to this country, on examining into the accommodation in emigrant ships, she found that aged men, and women, and children under 14, all slept in one compartment. She determined upon arranging what were called enclosed cabins, which provided for the separation of females. A benevolent nobleman, hearing of her efforts, said he would raise a few hundreds to help, but the shipowners, who were afraid she was going to ruin their trade, called upon him, and dropped the venom in. They said, "Mrs. Chisholm is a good kind woman, but people cannot trust her; she is an agent of the Propaganda." The nobleman was afraid, and the subscriptions did not come in. She persevered, however, with regard to the enclosed cabins. She had sent off ten ships with these arrangements, and now there was scarcely an emigrant who did not inquire if there were enclosed cabins. She had lately had a communication from a large shipowner in London, who said he would cut out her plan and give more space. She told him in reply that she would help him to carry his plan out. There was nothing now wanting in emigration but that the people should have confidence in ships, and in the provisions, and that the clergy of all denominations should come forward and do their duty to meet the depravity that now prevailed, in order that emigration might be moralised. Her husband and herself had been separated now about a year, and she intended to return to the colony in the spring, and to devote herself specially to the care of the single female emigrants. Meanwhile the work was proceeding. They had received 2000*l.* from her husband; and in a letter he stated that there were several servants paying 3*s.* and 4*s.* a week to maintain their parents with greater comfort in England. Upwards of 70 aged parents had been sent for, and a number of wives. Many young men, also, were sending for the girls they had left behind them—and when they arrived her husband always looked up the clergyman and had them married at once. She had no doubt that this system of remittances would be effected by bankers, shortly, but at present, except through this society, there were no means of remitting small sums with the certainty of their being applied to the purposes intended. Mrs. Chisholm then spoke of the hospitality of the country,

and said that when she was going into the interior with emigrants' provisions, sometimes a whole cartfull at a time were laid for her on the road side. In conclusion, she stated that this was a preliminary meeting, and that she would meet them again on some future occasion, to give them the benefit of her experience as to the

arrangements to be made for the passage, when she hoped the rev. chairman, if he was not afraid, would again preside. The Chairman said he was not at all afraid, but should be happy to preside. Three cheers were then given for Mrs. Chisholm and three for the rector, and the meeting separated.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE French Ministry has been reconstructed. M. Achille Fould, formerly Minister of Finances, has been placed at the head of the Council, under the title of Minister of State; Casabianca lapsing into the post of Senator, with a salary of 30,000 francs. The official departments are filled by Bineau, Finance; Magne, Public Works; Drouyn de l'Huys, Foreign Affairs; Ducos, Marine; Abbatiucci, Justice; Fortoul, Instruction; Persigny, Interior; St. Arnaud, War; Manpas, Police. Three members of the Council of State have "resigned" their posts—in other words, have been dismissed, because they opposed the government on the Orleans confiscation question. Their names are Maillard, Cornudet, and Reverchon. Their successors are notable men: M. de Cormenin, who under the name of "Timon" was a scourge to the Orleans dynasty; and M. Persil, formerly an Orleans Minister. The other changes are unimportant—except that M. Giraud, formerly Minister of Public Instruction, has succeeded the late M. Eugène Burnouf as Inspector of Superior Instruction.

A great fête has been given by the President; Sunday, the 15th of August, the fête-day of the Emperor Napoleon, having been chosen for the occasion. The guns of the Invalides opened the ceremony of the day by firing an imperial salute; and the national guards, whose standards were to be blessed and distributed, began to assemble about seven o'clock. They drew up in line, three deep; one wing resting on the Place de la Madeleine, and the other on the Porte Maillot of the Bois de Boulogne. Soon after eight o'clock, the Judges of the Court of Cassation arrived at the Madeleine, and for above an hour there was a succession of visitors—soldiers, diplomatists, officers of state, ministers, and members of the Institute; all decked out in ceremonial trappings. The coming of M. Bonaparte was announced by the advanced guard of the Guides, a handsome regiment, who were loudly cheered. These were followed by lancers, carabiniers, and cavalry of the national guard, forming the escort of the President. On the steps of the church, M. Bonaparte was received by a body of general officers, who stood bareheaded. He was led to his place near the altar by the archbishop of Paris and the curé of the Madeleine, and this priest took occasion to remind him that it was the fête of the Assumption of the Virgin as well as of the Emperor. M. Bonaparte is said to have replied, that he placed himself under the protection of the Virgin and the "Genius" of the Emperor. High mass was celebrated by the archbishop; the ensigns of the national guards were blessed, sprinkled with holy water, and sent out to be distributed to the troops. The clerical ceremonies were over by half-past ten o'clock. M. Bonaparte mounted his horse at the steps of the Madeleine, and rode up the front and down the rear of the guards, saluting the eagles, which were lowered as he passed. He then placed himself at the Pont-Tournant of the garden of the Tuileries, and sat quietly for two hours while the guards defiled before him. When this was finished, he galloped off to the Elysée. Different accounts are given as to the intensity of the cries; but the general opinion in Paris appears to have been that the President did not receive as warm a greeting as might have been expected from a body of men selected by the government itself. The weather was very unfavourable throughout the ceremony. The great attraction of the day was the mock naval combat on the Seine. All the other entertainments have been seen over and over again in former years, but the greater part of the Parisians never in their lives saw a three-masted ship. For

at least two hours before the appointed time the stream of population flowed towards the scene of action. A frigate from Cherbourg, the Ville de Paris, was anchored in the middle of the river between the Pont des Invalides and the Pont de Jéna. The stand for the President of the Republic was erected on the Champs de Mars side of the river, and on either side of it, extending to a considerable distance, were platforms containing reserved seats for invited guests. The whole length of the quays, from the Pont de la Concorde to the Pont de Jéna, was thickly crowded with anxious spectators, of whom not one in a hundred could see any part of the sight. Shortly after four o'clock the President of the Republic, attended by his household and the grand dignitaries of state, arrived at the grand stand. Great bustle then prevailed, both on shore and on the river. Boats with naval officers pushed rapidly to and from the frigate, bearing orders. It was not till half an hour after the President's arrival that the preliminaries of the battle commenced. A boat put off from the Arcas steamer, which was stationed near the Pont de Jéna, and reconnoitred the position of the frigate. This was an easy operation, for the frigate, to the great disappointment of multitudes, remained close reefed in, an inoffensive attitude at her moorings, where she had been for several days past. The frigate fired a gun at the boat, which instantly retreated, pouring a sharp fire of musketry into the frigate. Upon this, about twenty small boats, with soldiers and sailors on board, left the Arcas, and proceeding towards the frigate, attempted to board her. Two forts upon the banks of the river supported this manœuvre by a tremendous cannonading, which enveloped the whole *mise en scene* in a vast cloud of smoke. The rest of the battle can only be described as a long succession of clouds of smoke, and deafening peals of artillery. A general impression prevailed that the frigate was to spread her sails and manœuvre, but she remained motionless on account of the want of water in the river. The exhibition was, indeed, as little like a sea-fight as possible. In the evening, there was to have been a grand ball to the "Dames de la Halle," or market-women, with whom the President is a great favourite; but it was postponed, to their great disappointment and indignation. It took place, however, on Tuesday evening, but turned out a failure. The crowd was tremendous, and of a most motley description, the heat being almost unbearable. It was nearly half-an-hour's work to get from one end of the ball-room to the other, so terrible was the crush. The rain came down in torrents, and penetrated through the roof, forcing the guests in some places to hold up umbrellas. Very few functionaries were present; there were scarcely any refreshments; and, finally, the President of the Republic did not attend. Various causes are assigned for it. The friends of the Elysée declare that it was the heavy rain which fell about ten o'clock that prevented his going out. It is believed, however, that the real cause was, that the Ministers were decidedly opposed to his risking his person in the midst of a close crowd of nearly 20,000 guests of every description. The effect of this absence, however, amongst the lower classes, is certainly unfavourable to the President, as they say that if he did not intend to meet his guests he ought not to have invited them. Nothing else but this matter was spoken of the next day at the Halle; and the President's want of politeness was freely commented on. The names of all the distinguished persons who condescended to dance with partners of low degree in the quadrille of honour, at the ball of the Halle, has been carefully chronicled, and the list is curious. M. de Persigny, Minister of the Interior, danced with Madame

Clement, greengrocer; General Magnan, with Madame Amboster, fruit-seller; M. Romien, with Madame Daniel, butter merchant; M. Pietri, Prefect of Police, with Mademoiselle Glaize, mushroom merchant; M. T. de Montour, *chef de cabinet* in the ministry of the interior, with Mdlle. Marie Jenmaire, herring merchant; M. Collet Megret, with Mdlle. Bessin, bacon merchant; Captain Moutour, of the navy, aide-de-camp to the Minister of Marine, with Mdlle. Brisemontier, tripe seller; Captain de Lastic, an aide-de-camp of the Minister of Marine, with Mdlle. Prosper, offal merchant; M. Genet, of the Ministry of the Interior, with Mdlle. Narnier, oyster seller; M. de Najac, of the Beaux Arts, with Mdlle. Celestine France, butter merchant; M. de Lagnean with Madame Hoguet; M. Lepage, the chief porter of the butter market, with Madame de Persigny; M. Wair, the chief porter in the meat market, with Madame Ducos; M. Arnoult, a "fort" in the oyster market, with Madame Drouyn de l'Ilhays; M. Delahaye, of the butter market, with Mdlle. Magnan; and M. Lepage, of the oyster market, with the Countess Ornano.

M. Odillon Barrot has declined to sit in the Council General under the present *régime*, in a letter addressed to the Electors of the Department of the Aisne. The following passage is of general interest:—

"Now that on the ruins of the constitutional and parliamentary government of my country is founded—not in the form of temporary and incidental dictatorship, but as a permanent government—the most absolute power that perhaps exists in the world,—now that France, traversing the fatal circles around which she has been turning for sixty years past, has again passed from the most excessive liberty to authority the most concentrated and the most devoid of all serious control,—when the deceitful forms of universal suffrage and of popular sections, with the absence of all free discussion, of all possible assembling, of all previous concert between the electors, leave to the candidates indicated by the authorities the secure chance of success, and do not seem to have been maintained but only to mark the false semblance of liberty—the sad and humiliating realities of despotism—what co-operation can you require of me for such a government? What good could I do?

"The implicit adhesion which I should give by my oath to the destruction of our dear and old liberties, would it not effect ten times more evil than any good resulting from my presence in the council-general? I appeal to you, my dear fellow-citizens. Habituated, as we are, to think very nearly in the same way—to consult each other, as it were—say if, by the determination I adopt, and which pains my heart so much, I do not render to our liberal cause the last and only service I can render to it. The good that we have commenced in the canton of Crécy has made sufficient advance to make it almost a matter of indifference, so far as regards our material interests, whether I remain or do not remain your representative in the council-general. And as to the public and moral interests, believe me it is much better for us all that I should maintain our faith in liberty, and fidelity to our liberal banner. It is much better, when it is everywhere proclaimed that France is not worthy of that liberty she has followed amidst so many vicissitudes, earned by so many sacrifices, that there should still be men who persist in believing her worthy of it. I ought, and I desire, to be one of those men, should I die before I see my hopes realised."

The letter was published in the *Indépendance Belge*, and that journal had been stopped by the French post.

The hostile feeling of the President of the Republic towards both dynasties of the Bourbons has shown itself recently in two very remarkable instances. The first refers to the Orleans family: After Louis Philippe had caused the remains of Napoleon to be brought from St. Helena to France, a magnificent mausoleum was designed, by the king's orders, to receive the body under the cupola of the Invalides. This monument is not yet entirely completed, but on each side the staircase descending to it a bas-relief had been introduced into the wall, the one representing the arrival of Prince de Joinville at St. Helena, with the Belle Poule, to fetch the body of the Emperor; the other King Louis Philippe receiving the funeral procession at Paris. Upon a recent visit paid by Prince Louis Napoleon to these works, he peremptorily ordered that these tablets, which commemorate the share taken by the House of Orleans in the funeral honours paid to the Emperor Napoleon, should be removed. The other retates to the elder branch.—In the early days of the restoration a small monument was raised in the chapel of Vincennes to the memory of the Duke d'Enghien, whose remains were discovered near that spot. Yet humble as

this tablet was, it was a vexation to the Ruler of France, and a mute accuser of the splendid sepulchre of the Invalides. It has, therefore, been recently removed, dismembered, and totally destroyed. The coffin has been removed to a small room adjoining the vestry, and left there without any inscription. This cowardly profanation took place by night, but in the presence of the commanding officer, and by the hands of soldiers, after a visit from some of the President's orderlies, and of Lucien Murat. The accusing epitaph has been broken in pieces, and all traces of the crime, and of the reparation, have as much as possible disappeared.

Proudhon, the notorious red republican and socialist, has published a book in which he advocates the *legitimacy* of Louis Bonaparte. "Louis Napoleon," he says, "is really the elect of the people. The people, you say, were not free. The people were deceived. The people were afraid. Vain pretences. Are men afraid? Are they deceived in such cases? Do they want liberty? We, the republicans, have repeated, upon the faith of our most suspected traditions, 'Vox populi, vox Dei.' The voice of God has named Louis Napoleon. As the expression of the popular will, he is the most legitimate of sovereigns." M. Proudhon, no longer proscribed, is in high favour with the powers that be, and is in the way of making a fortune, it is said, by the sale of his book.

Great sensation has been excited in Paris by a trial of a murderer before the Court of Assizes of the Seine. The miscreant, whose name is Pradeaux, in the space of a single month, last May, assassinated three persons, two of whom were old women, and attempted a fourth murder. The resistance which he encountered in his last crime happily prevented its completion and led to his apprehension. He is 32 years of age. His parents were connected with the manufacture of artificial flowers. Before he took to assassination, he had been three times imprisoned for robbery and swindling. As soon as he had obtained two or three hundred francs by some criminal means, he spent the money in a few days, and then had recourse to a fresh crime for a new supply. His first victim was a cotton-manufacturer, whom he murdered in his bed on the night of April 5, to rob his chest, which contained some 700 francs. About the same time he contracted an engagement to marry the girl Dardard. To defray the expenses of the nuptial feast he committed a fresh murder. This time his victim was a woman of 60, the widow Chateaux, of whom he pretended that he wanted to hire a lodging. He paid a visit at midnight, knocked down the old woman with a violent blow on the head, and strangled her with a handkerchief. He then rifled her effects, among which he found a bag of savings amounting to 300 francs. Henceforth this became the pattern for Pradeaux's assassinations. He sought out the weakest victims, stunned them by a sudden blow, and then strangled them. Having murdered the widow Chateaux on the 25th, he proceeded to assassinate in precisely the same way four days after a woman of the same age, Swan, engaged in the artificial flower trade. But he ransacked in vain the drawers of this poor creature, who, notwithstanding her industrious habits, was obliged to eke out her subsistence by the charity of the Bureau de Bienfaisance. The next day Pradeaux led his bride to the altar, decorated, perhaps, with some of Mdlle. Swan's artificial orange-flowers. He passed the night in wandering about the orchards whose walls he had scaled to murder the cotton-manufacturer, and at daybreak entered the cabaret of an old woman named Naudin. He asked for a glass of brandy, and while she was getting it he struck her on the head with a bottle, and knocked her down. He then attempted to strangle her with a handkerchief as usual; but the old woman bit him with force, and her screams brought the concierge to her assistance. The assassin fled, was pursued and caught. The jury found a verdict of guilty upon all the charges, and the prisoner was condemned to death. The appearance of Pradeaux is insignificant, his features are small, his eyes sunk, his complexion pale. His whole life seems to have been one tissue of crimes. As soon as he had strength enough he knocked down his mother and trampled upon her, and nearly assassinated his father with one of the tools used in their trade.

It is remarkable to observe the cool way in which the highest functionaries of the state, and persons in the nearest confidence of Louis Napoleon, choose to overlook the fact of his election for ten years, and with the most unblushing contempt of all law to speak of him as of a king. Thus General d'Espinasse, the officer who was commissioned to occupy the Legislative Palace on the morning of Dec. 2, having been despatched to Algiers to be present at the inauguration of the statue of Marshal Bugeaud, closes his speech with the following expression, which is taken from the official Akbar, of the 17th inst.:—"The Prince who sends me wishes to make the prosperity of Algiers one of the principal glories of his reign."

Intelligence from *Madrid* states that a royal order has declared that, as the English officers of the *British Legion in Spain* were duly paid and compensated, according to treaty, for their two years' service, they have no right to retain the title of their rank. The case is different with General de Lacy Evans, who holds the rank of Lieutenant-General of the Spanish army.

The *Valentia* journals contain an account of a very horrible affair. The watchman, on going his rounds on the Place de Las Moscas, on the 13th July, perceived the door of a house standing wide open. This excited his suspicion, and he entered. In the passage he saw bloody stains, as if caused by a man coming from an upper story. He followed the marks until he arrived on the first floor, and there in a room he saw four dead bodies lying bathed in blood. He gave an alarm, and the deceased were recognised to be an old gentleman named Mayans, proprietor of the house; his house-keeper, Maria, aged thirty-seven; her niece, a dress-maker, aged twenty-two; and an apprentice, aged between twelve and thirteen. In the drawers the plate and jewellery were found untouched, as was also a sum of 1900 reals. The lower part of the house was unoccupied, and in the upper resided a retired officer with his wife and servant. Notwithstanding the most active search had been made by the police, and a reward offered, no clue to the murderer had been obtained up to the 31st.

The *Emperor of Austria* has returned from his tour in Hungary. On the 13th inst. he arrived at Presburg, accompanied, it is said, by a band of eight hundred mounted Slavonians. Reports say he was well received by the people; but the reports are derived mainly from the police-ridden journals. Next day he entered Vienna, coming thither by the railway. Here again, on similar authority, we are informed he was received with loud demonstrations of attachment on the part of the people. Nevertheless, the streets from the railway station to the Cathedral were thickly lined by soldiers. At the Cathedral a Te Deum was performed; and thence the Emperor went to the Palace. In the evening he drove through the streets, to see the illuminations which had been ordered by a circular from the Police; and agents from the chief office were known to be scattered through the crowd, to see that the order was obeyed. It was expected that the Emperor would leave Vienna on the 16th, for Ischl.

The *Vienna Gazette* of the 22nd contains the following sentences of the court-martial sitting at Hermanstadt:—Count Joseph Haller, aged 33, of Weisskirchen, in Transylvania, landed-proprietor, and the Rev. Francis Nagy, aged 63, of György, reformed pastor, to be hung for high treason, their property being also confiscated. The Emperor has since commuted the punishment to ten years' imprisonment in the case of the younger, and fourteen in that of the venerable prisoner; the confiscation being maintained. Three yeomen charged with homicide during the civil war, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by the court-martial, now receive a remission of half the punishment. A subsequent notification in the *Gazette* states that the functions of the Hungarian court-martial are now suspended.

The town of Wasa, in *Finland*, was destroyed by fire on the 11th inst. The details are wanting, but it

is stated that nothing was left standing except the court of justice and four houses near it. The town was founded in 1606, by Charles IX. of Sweden, and contained about 3,200 inhabitants.

Accounts from *Switzerland* mention the following piece of bigotry as having occurred in the Canton of Schwytz:—"A catholic citizen of that canton, who had long borne arms in Africa, fell sick. A priest arrived, and insisted upon the sick man's confessing. The latter declined, and as this old soldier did not care for the society of priests, all the attempts of the curé remained ineffective. The man died: his body was placed in a sack and thrown into a hole near the gibbet, while hitherto even suicides have been interred in the cemetery.

A student of theology at *Bonn* went in a fit of religious insanity to a neighbouring wood with hammer and nails, and, finding a tree in the form of a cross, actually crucified himself. He was found in a state of insensibility by some peasants, who, not having tools for drawing the nails, felled the tree, and carried him with it to the next village. The young man is now in the hospital at Bonn, and out of danger.

The hippodrome at *Florence* has been closed by the authorities in consequence of an anti-Bonapartist demonstration. The "Wars of Napoleon" was the piece represented. The taking of the bridge of Arcole, and the 18th Brumaire, went off very well, but at the coronation scene loud hissing was heard. The actor who played Napoleon then dashed his crown and sceptre to the ground, amidst the deafening applause of the audience. The police have ordered the circus to be closed for fifteen days, and have perpetually interdicted the reproduction of the piece. The actor was sent to prison for twenty-four hours.

An English traveller who attempted lately to pass into *Lombardy* was stopped on the frontier; and although his passport "was perfectly regular," he was forbidden to cross the magic boundary, unless he would surrender some works which he had in his carpet-bag. The noxious volumes were "Murray's Handbook for North Germany," an Italian Vocabulary, Keller's "Map of Switzerland," the "House with Seven Gables," and a volume of the English translation of Plato. The traveller would not give the books up, and he was obliged to return on his way.

In *Naples*, Mr. Hamilton, an English Protestant, relying on an article in the treaty of 1845, set up a school in 1848, for the education of Swiss and English children. By degrees, government influence was used to drive away his pupils, and lately he had only some dozen English children. The police have now forcibly closed the school, and turned the little boys on the street. Sir William Temple was informed of the act of the police, but it remains to be seen what course the British government will pursue.

In *Piedmont*, severe measures are taken against the freedom of the press. M. Ivan Golowine, editor of the *Journal of Turin*, has been ordered out of Piedmont, because he published an article against Austria, written by the Marquis d'Aneglio in 1848, without the name of the author; the editor of the *Gazette of the People* is fined 20*l.*; and sentenced to one month's imprisonment, for an article in favour of mixed marriages, in which he said difference of religion ought not to form an impediment to marriage when the conduct of the parties was irreproachable; the editor and the director of the *Opinione* have been fined and imprisoned for publishing an article against the Catholic religion; and M. Viard, a refugee and director of the *Patriote Savoisien*, has been ordered to quit the country.

Arrests continue in the *States of the Church* and in *Lombardy*. The Austrian Consul at *Genoa* caused seals to be placed on the property of a Lombard who died there, and who had long been suspected. It is said by the French journals that the clue to a conspiracy was found among his papers, and that numbers of arrests have followed. The same authority states that the conspirators were in the pay of the Revolutionary

Committee of London. The *Italia e Popolo* was seized at Genoa on the 5th of this month.

The daughter of the notorious popular leader Ciceruacchio died at Rome of consumption on the 3rd, and his wife is in a hopeless state from the same malady. With respect to the fate of Ciceruacchio himself and his sons, it is hitherto wrapped in the profoundest mystery; but as no authentic accounts of their death, capture, or emigration have ever been put forth, it is conjectured that they are safely concealed in some part of the Roman States.

The Austrian authorities in *Lombardy* have given a fresh instance of their brutality. An English gentleman was quietly sketching the picturesque Amphitheatre of the old city of the Montagues and Capulets, when he was accosted by an Austrian sentry, who commanded him to desist. Upon declining to comply with this military prohibition he was arrested and thrown into prison, where he was detained for several days. After his liberation, this martyr of the pencil was thrust unceremoniously out of the city, and conducted by Austrian gendarmes out of the territory, subjected to the mild sway of Marshal Radetzky. The *Augsburg Gazette* says that the Englishman called upon the commandant of the fortress to apologise to him, but that this demand was refused. He then applied to the Earl of Westmoreland, at that moment at Venice, for redress.

Intelligence from *Parma* announces that the resolution has been taken at Vienna to deprive the Duke of Parma of the administration of his states, and to create a regency, of which Ward is to be the head. The motives for this extraordinary act have not yet been assigned with any degree of distinctness by any source of intelligence, public, or private. The present Duke, a young man close upon 30, received the sovereignty of Parma, Piacentia, and the annexed states by virtue of the abdication of his father, Duke of Lucrea, in March, 1849. He is said to have left Parma, to defend himself at Vienna, where it appears he is regarded as a minor, although considerably older than the Emperor. That his journey might not be anticipated, he set out secretly and suddenly with two aides-de-camp, and when he reached the frontier of his small territory he handed to each a great despatch with an enormous seal, which looked as if it contained matters of gravest import, but only notified in the briefest terms his departure.

The elevation of Ward to the regency is more like one of the turns of fortune under an Asiatic despotism than anything that occurs in European affairs. Ward was a Yorkshire groom. The late Duke of Lucrea, when in England, took him into his service, and, perceiving his merit, promoted him through the several degrees of command in his stables, to be head groom of the ducal stud. Upon Ward's arrival in Italy with his master, it was soon found that the intelligence which he displayed in the management of the stables was applicable to a variety of other departments. In fact the Duke had such a high opinion of Ward's wisdom that he very rarely omitted to consult him upon any question that he was perplexed to decide; and the success, which never failed to crown Ward's advice, gave him in the eyes of the feeble descendant of the Spanish Bourbons the prestige of infallibility. The expenses of the stables having been reduced to less than half under the administration, while the Duke's horses were the envy of all Italy, it struck the prince naturally enough that it would be a good thing if the same economy could be introduced into other departments. So Ward tried his hand on one thing and the other, continually enlarging his sphere of influence, until from household matters he passed to those connected with the state. Ward, now become the factotum of the Prince, won in the disturbances which preceded the revolutionary year of 1848 a diplomatic dignity, and was despatched to Florence upon a confidential mission of the highest importance. He was deputed to deliver to the Grand Duke the act of abdication of the Duke of Lucrea. At first the Grand Duke was doubtful whether he could receive in a diplomatic capacity a messenger of whom he had only heard in relation to the races of the Cascine, where Ward had been in the habit of riding as a jockey. But it soon appeared that the Lucchese envoy had in his

pocket a commission making him the viceroy of the Duke's estates, which was to be acted upon in case the Grand Duke made any difficulty, or even if he refused to receive Ward as the ambassador of the states of Parma at the capital of the Medici. Soon after, in 1849, when the Duke of Lucrea resigned his other states to his son, Ward became the head-counsellor of this hopeful prince, who has thus been able to follow out a sporting bent under the best auspices, while he had a minister whose shrewd sense was more than a match for the first diplomatists in Italy. Ward was on one occasion despatched to Vienna in a diplomatic capacity. Schwarzenberg was astonished at his capacity; in fact, the *ci-devant* Yorkshire stable boy was the only one of the diplomatic body that could make head against the impetuous counsels, or rather dictates, of Schwarzenberg; and this was found highly useful by other members of the diplomatic body. Among others, Meyendorff, the Russian ambassador, cultivated him greatly. An English gentleman, supping one night at the Russian ambassador's, complimented him upon his excellent ham. "There's a member of our diplomatic corps here," replied Meyendorff, "who supplies us all with hams from Yorkshire, of which county he is a native." Ward visited England. The broad dialect and homely phrase betraying his origin through the profusion of orders of all countries sparkling on his breast, he rarely ventured to appear at evening *soirées*. Lord Palmerston declared he was one of the most remarkable men he had ever met with. Ward, through all his vicissitude, has preserved an honest pride in his native country. He does not conceal his humble origin. The portraits of his parents, in their home-spun clothes, appear in his splendid saloon of the prime minister of Parma.

Destructive fires occur daily in *Constantinople*. From the 1st to the 6th of August, eleven great fires raged, the city being on the first day on fire at five different places. The Turks believe that incendiarism is instigated by the Russians, in order to excite an insurrection, and so much the more that several noted Greek desperados from the Peninsula have been seen in Constantinople. There are now three different parties in Turkey—the Sultan, the army, and the reformers, led by Reschid Pacha, are the first; the second is the conservative party of old Turkey, with the Mufitis and Ulemas, priests and lawyers, under the guidance of the Sultan's brother; they enjoy now the patronage of Russia, and denounce the Sultan so openly for his reforms, that it became necessary to arrest on the 4th three Turkish priests, who incited the people to insurrection. The third party are the Greeks and Armenians, all of them tools of Russia. The wealthy Turks are frightened out of their wits; they firmly believe in an outbreak towards the end of the month, which would give a pretext to the Russians for an armed interference, and many families leave town on account of the apprehended crisis.

Intelligence has just arrived from *Constantinople* that Ali Pasha is appointed Grand Vizier in place of Reschid, who withdraws completely from affairs of the state. Achmet Feshi also retires. It is believed that Fuad Effendi will be appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Adrianople has been ravaged by a dreadful fire. Above 700 houses, and several public buildings, have been consumed.

A great earthquake has occurred at *Erzeroum*, in *Armenia*. Three hundred buildings have been thrown down, many lives have been lost, and most of the store-houses of the city have been damaged.

A firman of the Porte has mitigated the criminal law in Egypt. In consequence of the Sultan's aversion to capital punishments, the penalty for political offences, punishable by death under the Ottoman law, will in future be commuted to hard labour for ten or fifteen years.

In *Moldavia* and *Wallachia* all the Austrian subjects, Hungarians and Transylvanians, all who have emigrated since twenty years, have been arrested, fettered, and driven to Transylvania at the request of the Austrian authorities. Many of them died on their way on account of the bad treatment, and more than half of the

number were sent to the hospital as they arrived in Hermanstadt.

Accounts from *Siam* speak favourably of the disposition of the young king, who lately succeeded to the throne, who seems resolved to carry improvements to the extent of his dominions. Recently his majesty intimated his desire to allow the European and American residents a piece of ground for burial purposes. In various ways the king manifests his good will towards Europeans. It was generally expected that another English embassy would visit the country, and the king had intimated his desire to cultivate the most friendly feelings and to extend legitimate commerce; but it is also very confidently stated that the king will offer every discouragement to a proposed consulate at his capital, as he wishes foreigners to have only a commercial and not a political footing in the country.

The intelligence from *Buenos Ayres* is important. Urquiza, exasperated, as he asserts, by the demagoguism of the Chamber of Representatives and the public press, dissolved the former, gagged the latter, and placed the town in a state of siege, on the 23rd June. He professes that he is the firmest friend of liberty; that he has only had recourse to this step in order to preserve the Argentine Republic from civil war; and that when the constitution shall have been established on a firmer basis, he will resign his dictatorial powers. He calls himself Provisional Director; and in this capacity he has summoned the delegates of the States to meet him during the present month, at Santa Fé, to settle the constitution and elect a President.

The last accounts from *Mexico* received at New York represent the inhabitants as being in a great state of excitement in consequence of the numerous Indian depredations throughout that unhappy country. Emboldened by their successes, the *Zacatecas* tribe recently attacked a town within one hundred miles of the city of Mexico. What makes the matter worse, the government appears to have no resources left to pay for the defence of the people.

In the *United States* considerable excitement has been caused by a question with the British government respecting the right of deep-sea fishing on the coast of our North American Colonies, arising out of the convention in 1818 between the two governments, whereby the United States renounced the liberty of fishing within three miles of the coasts in the limits not included in the convention. The construction of this convention has become a subject of dispute. It is alleged by the British government that for several years the Americans have been allowed to encroach upon the best fishing-grounds; and since the accession of the Derby government to office, Sir John Pakington has determined to put an end to this encroachment, by sending a sufficient force to exclude or capture any American fishing-boats which may transgress the assigned limits. Already one American fishing-vessel has been captured in the Bay of Fundy by the British cutter *Nctley*, and carried into St. John's, New Brunswick. In addition to the imperial force engaged in the protection of the fisheries, the colonies have several armed cruisers in those seas. In the American senate, a resolution, calling for copies of all correspondence on the subject since 1818, has been passed, on the motion of Mr. Mason of Virginia. The resolution has a further direction:

"That the President be also requested to inform the Senate whether any of the naval forces of the United States have been ordered to the seas adjacent to the British possessions in North America, to protect the rights of American fishermen, under said convention of 1818, since the receipt of the intelligence that a large and unusual British naval force has been ordered there, to enforce certain alleged rights of Great Britain under such convention."

A memorial was in process of signature at Boston, stating that 2100 vessels and 30,000 seamen are now engaged in the fisheries, representing property valued at 12,000,000 dollars; that the people of New England and their fathers have enjoyed free right to fish in the now proscribed waters; and that the enforcement of the

new construction put upon the treaty of 1818 will ruin many families in New England. Therefore the memorialists pray the President to send a naval force to the British North American waters, sufficient to protect the fishermen in their lawful occupation. The British force off the coasts of our North American colonies consists of the Cumberland, 70 guns, bearing the flag of Sir G. F. Seymour; four sloops, one of 12, two others of 6, and one of 4 guns; a ketch, 3 guns; four schooners, one of 3 and two of 2 guns; and three brigantines, two of which carry 2 guns. One schooner and one brigantine appear to be unarmed. The senate at Washington received a message from the President on the 2nd inst., stating that the Mississippi had been despatched to the fishing-grounds, and transmitting copies of correspondence respecting the treaty and the fishery question, which had passed between 1818 and 1852 inclusive. Mr. Cass moved that the message be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; and a debate arose thereon; but the subject was postponed. The speakers were Mr. Cass, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Hamlin. The tone of their speeches was not warlike; but they all maintained that the British construction of the treaty was erroneous. The Mississippi steamed from New York bay on the 31st July; and the frigates *Savanna* and *Columbia* were to follow. The debate in the senate was again adjourned on the 5th, in order that the senators might have ample time for perusing the correspondence supplied by the President. Meanwhile, a letter from Commodore Perry, on board the Mississippi, dated off Eastport, Maine, August 2nd, had been published. The commodore intimates that "everything indicated a favourable issue;" but whether for the Americans, or in the interest of peace, he leaves doubtful. It was rumoured in Washington that Mr. Crampton and Mr. Webster had settled the dispute; and that, at all events for the present, seizures by the British would not be made, except within three miles of the coasts.

A dreadful steam-boat accident took place on the Hudson, on the 28th ult. Two rival steamers, named the *Henry Clay* and the *Armenia*, started from Albany on the morning of that day, and steamed at a racing pace down towards New York. Both the boats were put to the utmost of their speed, and were constantly in dangerous situations. Even after they had made a considerable distance, and were heavily laden with passengers, the racing continued. Suddenly a passenger observed smoke and smelt fire on board the *Henry Clay*. He spoke to the pilot; but that officer, instead of running the boat instantly on shore, told the passenger to "mind his own business," and continued his fatal course. In this way half a mile was gone over; the flames then burst out very fiercely, and the boat was now run ashore. "The steamer struck head on," says the *New York Herald*; "and as the fire broke out in the centre, and the breeze blew off shore, those on the stern of the boat had either to leap into the water or perish in the flames. One of the passengers who had reached the shore said, 'that as he turned, he saw the flames envelope a fine lad, standing on the verge of the upper deck, seemingly uncertain whether to perish by fire or water. The flames and thick smoke seemed to wrap around him like a winding-sheet, till he disappeared, and is now no more. Another gentleman informed us, that he saw a mother take her infant in her teeth by its clothes, to have the babe come on top when she arose to the surface, and approach the edge of the boat to leap into the water. By a sudden jerk of the boat the child fell from the grasp of the mother, and also disappeared. There were several other heartrending incidents connected with this sad affair. We shall never know all the sad scenes of this terrible disaster. Most of those who were saved came to the city in the *Armenia* and by the Hudson-river railroad. The down-train stopped to render assistance, and a special train was sent out to bring the survivors to town. Several reached the Irving House in a sad plight—some without shoes, others without hats, and some without coats, shoes, or stockings." As far as could be ascertained, at least fifty-six lives were lost. "Indignation" meetings had been held, and great excitement prevailed.

Mr. Clay, in his will, has made the following arrange-

ments in regard to his slaves:—He has directed that all born after the 1st of January, 1850, shall be liberated and sent to Liberia, the males when they arrive at the age of twenty-eight years, and the females when twenty-five, previous to which they are to be taught to read, write, &c.; and the proceeds of their labour for three years previous to starting are to be appropriated to defray their expenses to their new home. The older slaves are to remain for the benefit of the family.

The latest accounts state that Mr. Crampton, the British minister, has had an interview with the President, and has informed him that Lord Derby has taken the fishing question out of his hands and referred it to the colonial government.

It is also stated that Mr. Webster and the President have had a pretty plain conversation, the result of which will be the immediate withdrawal of that gentleman

from the cabinet. In confirmation of this, several wagon loads of furniture left Mr. Webster's house on the 10th inst. for Georgetown, there to be shipped on board a Boston packet. Mr. Webster wrote to a friend here, some days ago, that he would only visit Washington to wind up his business, and retire.

On the 9th inst. the escaped convict, Thomas Francis Meagher, made a formal declaration to one of the judges of the superior court of his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. The following is the form of the oath to which he subscribed:

"I, Thomas Francis Meagher, do declare on oath, that it is my *bona fide* intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce for ever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, of whom I am now a subject."

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THERE is even less to notice this month in the department of original publication than last month presented. The pamphlets are more numerous, the books more scanty.

The reader will judge of their importance by the following list, given in their order of appearance. A small volume on the *Calling and Responsibilities of a Governor*. A collection of the *Lectures on Gold* delivered lately at the Museum of Practical Geology. A history, by the reverend incumbent, of *All Saints' Church, Sudbury*. Two numbers of the Messrs. Longman's *Travellers' Library*, containing Mr. Macaulay's Essay on Bacon, and a popular account of Electricity and the Electric Telegraph. A thin octavo of *Conversations about Hurricanes*. The first volume of a proposed series of (we regret to say ill written) *Lives of the Sovereigns of Russia*. A volume of American travel by Mr. Casey called *Two Years on the Farm of Uncle Sam*. A novel by a Mr. Pepys with the title of *Constance Tyrrell*. A compilation on the history, construction, and social influences of *Our Iron Roads*. A small child's story of Defoe origin called *The Canadian Crusoe*. A thin octavo of *Annals of Calais*. A botanical study of *Western Himalaya and Tibet*. A second volume of Mr. Jerdan's *Autobiography*. A series of republished chapters from a weekly law publication on the duties and responsibilities of the *Advocate*. A new and more portable *Handbook of Belgium* by Mr. Murray, and another of Mr. Bogue's *Guides for Travellers* in Switzerland and the Savoy. A summary by Mr. Desborough Cooley of the results of recent African discovery which he entitles *Inner Africa Laid Open*. A second volume of the *Notes upon Russia* issued by the Hakluyt Society. A school-book of *Studies from the English Poets* by Mr. G. F. Graham. A thin tract of *Hints to Travellers in Portugal*. A novel by Miss Pennefather called *Helen Talbot*. The concluding volume of Mr. Robert Chambers's *Life and Works of Burns*. A translation, from the German, of the first volume of Doctor Marx's *School of Musical Composition*. Two small succinct treatises by Doctor Latham on the *Ethnology of Europe* and the *Ethnology of the British Islands*. And Doctor Sutherland's *Journal of a Voyage in Baffin's Bay and Barrow Straits in 1850-1*. This last work describes by far the most interesting and successful of the voyages of search made for Franklin and his companions, though made under a commander of no higher rank than the master of a whaler, Mr. William Penny; and the describer, Doctor Sutherland, though no great writer, is a singularly faithful as well as minute observer of nature and natural phenomena.

Pamphlets it does not come within our plan to preserve any formal record of, but a slight summary of subjects will indicate their variety and number. Lord Mahon has answered Mr. Jared Sparks on the subject of imputations he had brought against that gentleman of having tampered with the text of Washington's letters in editing his works, and appears now to succeed in establishing substantial grounds for that charge. The Rev. Mr.

Merewether has described, in the form of extracts from a diary of a voyage to Australia, the ordinary course of daily life on board an emigrant ship. Mr. Robert Christie has discoursed on life assurance institutions; Mr. Fairfax on the colonies of Australia; Mr. Willacy on education; Mr. Edward Warrington (in French) on the text of Bonapartism being now the sole safety of France; Mr. Toulmin Smith on the Baroness Von Beck's case; Mr. William H. Hall on his own practical experience at the gold diggings; Mr. W. J. Thomson on the present position of the life assurance interests of Great Britain; Archbishop Whately (in a charge to his clergy) on the claims of truth and unity in reference to the Church; and Lord Beaumont on the position of France and Austria in regard to Central Italy. As many pamphlets anonymous, on a like variety of subjects, might be added to these. And a publisher with a taste for county antiquities, Mr. Gray Bell, has commenced a series of reprints of rare tracts and imprints of unpublished manuscripts illustrative of the topography, family history, antiquities, customs, dialects, &c., &c., of the various counties of Great Britain; limiting the number issued of each tract, and charging for them by general subscription.

A few words may be spared in conclusion for serial and republished works. *Rob Roy* has been added to the Library Edition of the Waverley Novels. *Notes and Queries* has completed its fifth volume. Oliver Holmes's *Poetical Works*, being the songs and ballads of a clever American rhymist, have been reprinted. A new edition has appeared of that remarkable book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which, besides having the advantage of a clearer type than any other we have seen, and a price as reasonable as any, has the not less strong recommendation of setting apart a share of its profits for the writer—one of the cleverest writers of fiction that America has yet produced. A new story of Emilie Carlen, *Ivar*, has been translated, and the republication of Hazlitt's *Life of Napoleon* completed, for the Illustrated London Library. Mr. Bohn has added to his libraries another volume of Neander's *Church History*, and a new prose translation of *Juvenal and Persius* to which Cliford's rhymed version is subjoined. The completion of Michaeland's *History of the Crusades* is the last translated addition to Routledge's library. Mr. Dod has described the new parliament in a new edition of his famous *Companion*. And finally some brief treatises on popular law subjects have appeared; embracing *The Practice of the County Courts*, by Mr. Broom; *The Militia Acts*, by Mr. Saunders; *Controverted Elections and Parliamentary Committees*, by Mr. Pickering; *On Investments*, by Mr. Ward; and editions of the *Patent Law Amendment Act*, and *Law of International Copyright between England and France*, both annotated and explained by Mr. Peter Burke. On the latter act, too, in so far as it relates to dramatic pieces, Mr. Charles Mathews has been discoursing in livelier fashion, and always very cleverly, if not always very logically, both in French and English.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the *London Gazette* of July 30th.—W. O. CAMERON and W. BRUCE, Minster-street, Hoxton, pickle-merchants.—J. B. DAUP-TAIN, Wharf-road, City-road, colour-merchant.—D. LANSLEY, Bath, lively stable-keeper.—T. LUKE, New Acerrington, Lancashire, grocer.—T. PEARSE, Bristol, hat and cap manufacturer.—W. RUMSEY, Queen-street, City, druggist.—G. WALSH, Blackburn, Lancashire, pawnbroker.—W. WINCH, Fountain-court, Strand, and North Mews, Gray's-inn-lane, licensed victualler.

August 3rd.—A. SCOTT and W. THOMPSON, Upper Ground-street, Blackfriars Road, iron-founders.—M. WOFOLC, Mistley, Essex, coal-merchant.—W. WHEELER, Clebury Mortimer, Salop, miller.—T. DOORBAR, Biddulph, Staffordshire, wheelwright.—T. SHAW, Birmingham, stationer.—C. FREDERICK BAILEY, Burslem, boot-maker.—R. WILSON LISMAN, Shensstone, Staffordshire, surgeon.—J. WILLIAMS, Plymouth, dealer in Berlin wool.—J. IBBETSON, Bradford, Yorkshire, bookseller.—W. BALDERSTON, Liverpool, grocer.—J. AVERY and S. STREET, Birkenhead, shipwrights.—R. C. WILSON, Seaham Harbour, Durham, earthenware-manufacturer.

August 6th.—H. GREEN, Dorchester, baker.—J. REDDELL, Gravesend, brewer.—J. BENTLEY, Smithfield-lane, cheesemonger.—L. ENGLAND, Shepperton-street, New North-road, builder.—J. P. SANDER, North Oxendon, Essex, cattle-dealer.—J. MERCER, Wotton-under-Edge, provision-dealer.—M. and H. HARTLEY, Halifax, stationers.—J. WINTERBOTTOM, Huddersfield, spinner.—J. SILBOWDEN, Liverpool, auctioneer.—J. NICHOLSON, Shotley-bridge, Durham, ironmonger.

August 10th.—J. KEDDELL (and not JOHN KEDDELL, as before), Gravesend, brewer.—J. HEATHWHITE, New-street, Covent Garden, cheesemonger.—J. WINTERBOTTOM, Huddersfield, spinner.—W. CRABTREE and S. SMITH, Bradford, Yorkshire, ironfounders.—G. LODGE the younger and R. HOPE, Leeds, flax-spinners.—J. FUGILL, Bradford, Yorkshire, stuff-merchant.—H. JONES, Chester, ironmonger.—T. and J. HUTCHINSON, Sunderland, grocers.—T. and ANDREW MCCREE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocers.

August 13th.—T. DOLF and N. TRÜBNER, Paternoster-row, booksellers.—G. BALL, Fenchurch-street, wine-merchant.—G. SUTTON, Portsea, proprietor of the Porchester Castle pleasure-grounds.—J. STEEVENS, Bermondsey Wall, sail-maker.—H. COHEN, Booth-street, Spitalfields, paper-hanging-manufacturer.—W. HOLLAMBY, Hurstpoint, grocer.—E. BUTT, Newcastle-place, Edgware-road, laceman.—G. W. BRIGHT, Swansea, victualler.—J. SWIFT, Stavely, grocer.—T. LAMPLUGH, Great Driffield, draper.—J. ROBERTS, Chester, grocer.

August 17th.—C. JOHNSON, Northumberland-place, Commercial-road-east, ironmonger.—T. TOPHAM, Noble-street, cotton-manufacturer.—W. ROLPH, Billerica, brewer.—W. MARTIN, Stamford, grocer.—W. HORNBY, Kirkdale, Lancashire, joiner.—J. HOW, Felling, Durham, builder.

August 20th.—W. MARSHALL, Hay's Wharf, Tooley-street, provision-agent.—G. MORTON, Crown-wharf, Scotland-yard, coal-merchant.—T. SECRET, Barnet, brewer.—T. FRANKLIN NICHOLL, Poole, auctioneer.—J. BELL, Ludgate-hill, tailor.—T. TOWNSEND, Bath, hat-manufacturer.—W. JONES WILLIAMS, Wolverhampton, bosier.—W. MOLE, Birmingham, victualler.

August 24th. A. CRAWFORD, Warden, Northumberland, paper-manufacturer.—R. J. DARGESFIELD, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, printer.—S. W. GILLAM, Tardington Place, Edgware-road, wine-merchant.—J. HOLMES, Regent-street, shawl warehouseman.—C. O'NEILL, Birmingham, metal-dealer.—W. PATTEN, Teering, Essex, dealer in horses.—T. SECRET, Barnet, common brewer.

August 27th.—G. BOLTON, Albany-street, Regent's-park, coachmaker.—H. B. ROBERTS, Nicholas-lane, City, tailor.—E. H. DALRY, Hornsey-road, Middlesex, butcher.—P. HAYES, Widnes, Lancashire, oil manufacturer.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

July 27th.—W. WILLIAMS, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, timber merchant.

August 27th.—S. POWNCEBY, High-street, Shadwell, stationer.

MONEY MARKET.

The Government Securities have undergone several fluctuations during the month, caused by the uncertain prospects of the harvest, the unsatisfactory intelligence from the Cape, and the threatened dispute with the United States, on the fisheries question. Consols have been as low as 98½; but the Stock-market has rallied, and become steady. In foreign stocks little has been done. In railway shares there have been variations; but the market has improved, and become more firm.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Tbree per Cent. Consols . . .	101½	98½	100
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	100½	99½	100½
Three and a quarter per Cents. .	104½	102½	104½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 . . .	6½	6½	6½
Bank Stock	234	222	228
Exchequer Bills	74	68	73 1/4
India Bonds, £1000	94	87	90

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Brazilian 5 per cent, scrip, 2½	Peruvian 6 per cent, 101
Chilian 6 per cent, 106½	Portuguese 4 per cent, 37½
Danish 5 per cent, 107½	Russian 4½ per cent, 121
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 99½	Spanish 3 per cent, new debt, 22
Mexican 3 per cent, 25½	Sardinian, 95½

Faid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	105	103½	104½
all	Blackwall	8½	8½	8½
St. 100	Caledonian	41½	38	41½
all	Eastern Counties	11	10½	11
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow . . .	67	65	67
all	Great Northern	79	76½	78
St. 100	Great Western	95	94	95 x.d.
„ 100	Lancashire and Yorkshire . . .	81½	78½	81½
„ 100	London & North-Western . . .	124½	122	122 x.d.
„ 100	Midland	76½	75½	76½
„ 100	North British	31	30½	31
„ 100	South-Eastern and Dover . . .	71½	70	71½
„ 100	South-Western	89½	98½	89½
„ 100	York, Newc., and Berwick . . .	70	69	69½
„ 100	York and North Midland . . .	54½	48	48½

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Rouen, 34½
East Indian, 27½	Paris and Strasbourg, 26½
Namur and Liege, 6½	Rouen and Havre, 14½
Northern of France, 26½	Tours and Nantes, 13½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 42s.; Barley, 25s.; Oats, 19s.; Rye, 30s. 2½; Beans, 34s.; Peas, 32s. 4d.; Flour (town made), delivered, 43s. to 46s.; American barrel of 280 lb., 18s. to 21s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., sides, 54s. to 63s.; middles, 52s. to 56s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 70s. to 80s.; Irish, 68s.; Westphalia, 49s. to 53s.
Beef, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 4d.	Mutton, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 3s. to 3s. 10d.
Butter, per cwt.—Cork, 71s. to 74s.; Waterford, 1st, 68s. to 74s.; Dutch Friesland, 74s. to 82s.; Limerick, 65s. to 70s.	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 60s. to 72s.; Kent and Essex Middling, 55s. to 70s.; Chats, 22s. to 24s.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 42s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 40s. to 52s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 30s.; American, 30s.	Pork, India per tierce, 160.
Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.	Veal, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 25s. to 41s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 26s. 6d.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica 30s. to 38s. Mauritius, brown, 25s. to 37s.; Brazil, 29s. to 40s.
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 43s. to 88s.; Mocha, 50s. to 92s.; Sumatra, 34s. to 37s.; Java, 42s. to 46s.	Tea, per lb. (duty 2s. 1d. and 5 per cent.)—Ord. to good Congou, 7½d. to 1s. 6d.; Souehong, com. to fine, 8d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 8d. to 1s. 3d.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal fine white, 9s. 6d. to 11s. 3d.; Madras, 8s. to 9s. 6d.; Patna, cleaned, 11s. 6d. to 17s.	
Candles, per 12 lb., 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	Coals, per ton, 15s. 6d.

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 51s. to 55s.	Palm, per ton, 28½ 10s. to 29½
Sperm, 85½ to 87½	Olive, Gallipoli, 51½ to 52½
Cod, 33½ 10s.	Linseed, 29½ 15s. to 30½

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.] FROM THE 28TH AUGUST TO THE 27TH SEPTEMBER. [PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

EVERY other matter of public interest is, for the time, absorbed in the death of the Duke of Wellington. All the world is uttering its thoughts of the great man who has so lately passed away. Since the event was known, there has been but one feeling or desire animating every public writer possessing the least claim to represent public spirit or public opinion amongst us,—namely, how best to express what he was, and what all parties honoured him for having been. Wonderfully has this been done. No solemn state or gorgeous ceremonial that may yet await what remains of the great warrior, can add to the glory which has been gathered round his name and services from day to day since his mortal career ended. The country has reason to be proud, which can show such a healthy and noble appreciation of a noble life. Rarely, upon any theme, has such high intellectual power been displayed, under guidance of so true a moral sense. There has been no vulgar worship of the successful soldier. The "*splendida facinora*" which every sinner may perpetrate, have been counted as nothing to those life-long services of duty which only the good as well as great achieve.

The full harvest of praise gathered in, little remains to the gleaner. But it has occurred to us to turn to the language of the Duke himself for some leading illustrations of his character. Thus may we best confirm the most exalted anticipations of what the final verdict of history will be. For if the Duke of Wellington had any one merit more signal than others which distinguished him, it was that of being always able to measure himself with exactness, his own wants, his capacities, and his powers. He equalled the ablest of his adversaries in knowing, upon all emergencies, what should be done; but he surpassed them in also knowing the precise means by which to do it, and in the ability himself to put those means in operation. In proof of this we have but to turn to his *Despatches*, the most durable of all the monuments which the Duke lived to see erected to his own glory.

And first let us show how he wrote these despatches. "I am obliged to you," he tells a correspondent at the outset of his Peninsular career, "for your offer to procure me assistance to copy my despatches; but I have plenty of that description. The fact is, that, excepting upon very important occasions, I write my despatches without making a draft; and those which I sent you were so written before I set out in the morning, and I had not time to get them copied before they were sent, which is the reason why I asked you to return me copies of them." The clearness of view, and decision of purpose, with which the Duke addressed himself to whatever business he took in hand, is here very strikingly apparent.

Self-possession in particular circumstances is the most remarkable of human qualities. There is no more decisive test of greatness. Marlborough was without education, unacquainted with grammar, in

literature a mere lowest-form boy all his life; yet his perfect mastery over himself gave him a singular mastery over others, and no man could persuade or convince more successfully. Wellington's power in this respect was supreme. The most elaborate of his despatches appear to have been written in circumstances which probably no other living man would have found compatible with such an occupation. Of one of these extraordinary performances (a most lengthy as well as able treatise on Portuguese finance, addressed to the British Minister at Lisbon), Colonel Gurwood tells us that it must have been written whilst the enemy were manœuvring in view.

The early manifestation of the Duke's genius and character breaks upon the reader of his despatches with startling effect. He is the same man when as junior-officer he commands a single brigade on home-service, when major-general in the Deccan, or colonel in Mysore, as he is when in command of the allied army of occupation in the full effulgence of his fame. Sir Arthur and the Duke are identical. In India fifty years ago, as in the Peninsula a few years later, he administers the entire civil affairs of extensive territories, manages the minutest details of commissariat finance, brings difficult negotiations to successful issue, and leads numerous armies to brilliant victories, with the same resolute determination, the same calm decision, the same immovable discipline, an impartiality as of fate itself, and the same steady and unfaltering results. "There is a fellow by the name of Mousa, at Tillicherry," he says during the war with the Mahrattas, "who supplies the Rajah with rice, to my certain knowledge. A hint might be given to him that I am in the habit of hanging those whom I find living under the protection of the Company and dealing treacherously towards their interests: that I spare neither rank nor riches, but that, on the contrary, I punish severely those who, by their example, create the evils for which the unfortunate people suffer." It would be difficult to express in fewer or more simple words the rule of severe, yet healthy justice, which had afterwards such wonderful effect in the great Peninsular campaigns.

One of the most memorable of the Duke's despatches is the first that was written to Lord Castlereagh, on landing in Portugal. The intimation had at this time reached him that other general officers of superior rank to his own had been ordered on the same service. But he makes no complaint. "All that I can say," he remarks, "upon that subject is, that whether I am to command the army or not, or am to quit it, I shall do my best to ensure its success; and you may depend upon it that I shall not hurry the operations, or commence them one moment sooner than they ought to be commenced, in order that I may acquire the credit of the success." And then he proceeds, while the troops have not yet disembarked, to sketch in a few sentences the plan of the war, so exactly as it was afterwards successfully carried out, that but for the means

we have to test the facts beyond a doubt, it would be hardly credible. He states the amount and composition of the force required. He warns the minister of the incessant exertions and sacrifices that will be demanded of England ("you must send everything from England: arms, ammunition, clothing, accoutrements, ordnance, flour, oats, &c. &c."). He determines at once the object and the direction of the military operations; he points out the proper lines of communication; and he confidently declares the possibility of saving Portugal from the grasp of France, even in the event of an unfavourable result in Spain. No subsequent adverse influence availed to move him from these designs. He had satisfied *himself* that what ought to be done was to be done best in that manner, and therefore no fears, no doubts, no obstructions on the part of others, availed to damp, to discourage, or to turn him aside. What Sir Arthur Wellesley thus planned out, while yet uncertain whether he might not even be superseded in the command, he afterwards, on the same memorable day, received his patents as a baron, a viscount, an earl, a marquis, and a duke, for having carried to triumphant issue.

Such was the Duke of Wellington's principle of conduct. He never complained of the withholding of a favour, or asked for the concession of one, but was content quietly to make it clear to all whom it might concern, that he at least was the man who had the best title to receive it. When the measure of his honours was afterwards filled up to overflowing, he had occasion to declare what his rule of conduct had thus been respecting them, to one whose services he highly valued, but for whom he nevertheless refused to ask a favour. "The only mode," he remarks, "in my opinion, in which favours can be acceptable, or honours and distinction can be received with satisfaction, is when they are conferred spontaneously. What I would recommend to you is, to express neither disappointment nor wishes upon the subject, even to an intimate friend, much less to the government. Continue, as you have done hitherto, to deserve the honourable distinction to which you aspire, and you may be certain that, if the government is wise, you will obtain it. If you do not obtain it, you may depend upon it that there is no person of whose good opinion you would be solicitous who will think the worse of you on that account. The comparison between myself, who have been the most favoured of his majesty's subjects, and you, will not be deemed quite correct: and I advert to my own situation only to tell you that I recommend to you conduct which I have always followed. Notwithstanding the numerous favours that I have received from the Crown, I have never solicited one; and I have never hinted, nor would any one of my friends or relations venture to hint for me, a desire to receive even one; and much as I have been favoured, the consciousness that it has been spontaneously, gives me more satisfaction than anything else. I recommend to you the same conduct, and patience; and, above all, resignation, if, after all, you should not succeed in acquiring what you wish." The most precious maxims that can govern ordinary life are here simply and unpretendingly expressed. They are applicable in every sphere, and the secret of unspeakable content is contained in them for all.

It is after reading such words as these we feel the happy appropriateness of what Lord John Russell has remarked of the priceless value of the Duke of Wellington's example. Let us not be so dazzled by the magnificence of his exploits, says in effect the late Premier, as not to perceive that what lay at the heart of them, and formed the substance of his successes, was a something not in its degree unattainable by the

humblest of his countrymen. Let us fix our thoughts on such qualities as we may ourselves emulate, and the example of which should be present with us on all occasions. In recollecting him as a man of whom England was so justly proud, let us never fail also to recollect that what in his sphere made him that which he became, was precisely that which it is not less within the reach of all to imitate in their degree, and to such extent succeed equally in attaining.

But what we have quoted hitherto was written in successful days, or at times when occasional disaster had not materially clouded the prospect of success. Let him be viewed in other circumstances. It was at the gloomiest period of the war, when the stupidity of our home ministers and the treachery of our foreign allies had made his position most embarrassing, that the common council of London resolved to address the Throne against him. "I cannot expect mercy at their hands," he writes on the occasion to Lord Liverpool, "whether I succeed or fail; and if I should fail, they will not inquire whether the failure is owing to my own incapacity, to the blameless errors to which we are all liable, to the faults or mistakes of others, to the deficiency of our means, to the serious difficulties of our situation, or to the great power and abilities of our enemy. In any of these cases I shall become their victim; but I am not to be alarmed at this additional risk, and, whatever may be the consequences, I shall continue to do my best in this country." From whatever quarter threatenings of danger assailed him, they found his mind invariably fixed on what was necessary to be done, and on that only. "The French threaten us on all points," he wrote, a day or two after the foregoing, "and are most desirous to get rid of us. But they threaten upon too many points at a time, to give me much uneasiness respecting any one in particular; and they shall not induce me to disconnect my army. I am in a situation in which no mischief can be done to my forces, or to any part of them; I am prepared for all events; and if I am in a scrape, as appears to be the general belief in England, although certainly not my own, I'll get out of it." Again, not many weeks later: "When we do go, I feel a little anxiety to go, like gentlemen, out of the hall-door, particularly after the preparations which I have made to enable us to do so; and not out of the back door, or by the area."

Nothing can disturb this cool and quiet temper. When the French army was within cannon-shot of his head-quarters, he held a ball to celebrate Lord Beresford's investiture as a knight of the Bath, every officer who attended being under arms at his post before daylight on the following morning. In the midst of occupations that would have overwhelmed any ordinary person with the mere amount of work necessitated by them, if such a person could have survived the anxiety of mind which they involved, the Duke of Wellington could find ample time for even the pastimes and amusements of the country life of England. "You should embark your infantry under Salvaterra," he writes to Beresford, "near where we used to kill our hares." "I see Tweeddale's hounds are just arrived," he writes to Cotton; "I hope you will come over and take a hunt some day or other, or we will draw your way when you like it."

Yet there was not a shade of bravado in all this. No man that ever headed an army in the field had a stronger or keener appreciation of the power and capacity of the men opposed to him, than the Duke of Wellington; none so disinclined as he, to making showy or brilliant display by inviting needless conflict. "Depend upon it," he writes to Lord Liverpool, "whatever people may tell you, I am not so desirous as they imagine of fighting desperate battles; if I was,

I might fight one any day I please." Upon this point we can also happily quote more at large, from one of the most striking of the letters in which the Duke has left invaluable counsel to such leaders and captains as may hereafter have the charge of the national honour and defence. "The desire to be forward in engaging the enemy is not uncommon in the British army; but that quality which I wish to see the officers possess who are at the head of the troops, is a cool, discriminating judgment in action, which will enable them to decide with promptitude how far they can and ought to go with propriety; and to convey their orders and act with such vigour and decision, that the soldiers will look up to them with confidence in the moment of action, and obey them with alacrity. The officers of the army may depend upon it, that the enemy to whom they are opposed are not less prudent than they are powerful. Notwithstanding what has been printed in gazettes and newspapers, we have never seen small bodies, unsupported, successfully opposed to large; nor has the experience of any officer realised the stories which all have read, of whole armies being driven by a handful of light infantry or dragoons."

It is not to be inferred from such passages as this that the Duke would have discredited the grand heroisms of the world; that the three hundred Spartans at Thermopylæ, or the ten thousand Greeks at Marathon, were, in his judgment, to be put away among the fairy tales and legends; but simply that such precedents as those are not to guide the conduct in any of the plans or enterprises of life to which judgment and prudence can be brought. The last extremity finds ever its last resource, and it is not one that any amount of forethought could provide. Then, in that last extremity, what is ordinarily our enemy takes the attitude of a friend, and the passions become our servants. Then, but then only, when prudence is mute, reason baffled, and all ordinary resources of discretion and wisdom exhausted, there needs to arise in the uttermost resort the highest achievement of which humanity is capable, but the very last on which a hero should rest or speculate beforehand.

It was the characteristic remark of a Frenchman on the Duke's despatches, that he could not find the word *glory* in them from beginning to end. Indeed it is not necessary to disguise the fact that they are horribly dull reading for a man of lively temperament. Should we turn to see what they talk about, for example, a few days after that crowning battle of Vittoria which crushed the Bonaparte dynasty in Spain, we suddenly find ourselves contemplating a sketch of the heroes of the day, the very reverse of flattering. "We started with the army in the highest order," says the Duke, "and up to the day of the battle nothing could get on better; but that event has, as usual, totally annihilated all order and discipline. The night of the battle, instead of being passed in getting rest and food to prepare them for the pursuit of the following day, was passed by the soldiers in looking for plunder: the consequence was that they were incapable of marching in pursuit of the enemy, and were totally knocked up. The rain came on, and increased their fatigue; and I am quite convinced that we have now out of the ranks double the amount of our loss in the battle; and that we have lost more men in the pursuit than the enemy have, and have never in any one day made more than an ordinary march. This is the consequence of the state of discipline of the British army. We may gain the greatest victories, but we shall do no good until we shall so far alter our system as to force all ranks to perform their duty."

This was at all times his argument. There is no good in the greatest victories if we cannot look

beyond them, and guarantee the enjoyment of that for which their sufferings and sacrifices have been undergone. War for its own sake—war for glory's sake—war unretrieved from its miseries by its highest advantages—is the greatest curse a country can know. Such was the Duke of Wellington's deliberate judgment; and his labours to reform the army with this view, that he might render it a nobler and more effective instrument of war, were gigantic. They embraced schemes of the largest and details of the minutest kind, into none of which may we enter here, further than to mark their progressive results as page follows page in the despatches. For example: "I have long been of opinion that a British army could bear neither success nor failure. The soldiers of this army have plundered the country most terribly; which has given me the greatest concern." Again: "We are an excellent army on parade, an excellent one to fight; but we are worse than an enemy in a country; and, take my word for it, that either defeat or success would dissolve us." Again: "I certainly think the army is improved. They are a better army than they were some months ago. But still these continued outrages are terrible." Again: "It is an unrivalled army for fighting, if the soldiers can only be kept in their ranks during the battle; but it wants some of those qualities which are indispensable to enable a general to bring them into the field in the order in which an army ought to be to meet an enemy, or to take all the advantage to be derived from a victory." Still that thought unceasingly recurs. We are not here for the glory of fighting battles, but for the gain we can achieve for our countrymen by fighting them. It was not for the interest of this or of that family, or dynasty, he was pouring out English blood and treasure over the fields of Portugal and Spain, but it was to destroy a system of tyranny so wide-spread and monstrous as to imperil the continuance of civilisation and happiness in every land on the face of the earth.

Predominant throughout every letter of the Duke of Wellington, private or public, is a sense of the absolute necessity of crushing the Napoleonic system, if liberty or civilisation were to be saved. "There must be," he said, "a general resistance to the disgusting and fraudulent tyranny of Bonaparte." Every sacrifice was to be made for that, and every extremity dared. "Yes," he writes, when one of the Austrian Archdukes was proposed to be placed at the head of one of the states resolved to throw off Napoleon, "but he must understand that he must never lay down his arms, even though reduced to be the head of a gang of robbers, till he shall have attained his object." In another letter he says, "Those who embark in projects of this description should be made to understand, or to act as if they understood, that having once drawn the sword they must not return it until they shall have completely accomplished their object. They must be prepared, and must be forced, to make all sacrifices to the cause. Submission to military discipline and order is a matter of course; but when a nation determines to resist the authority, and to shake off the government, of Bonaparte, they must be prepared, and forced, to sacrifice the luxuries and comforts of life, and to risk all in a contest, which, it should be clearly understood before it is undertaken, has for its object to save all or nothing." It should at the same time be remarked that the Duke of Wellington, in speaking thus, had already thoroughly convinced himself that the system *was* to be crushed, if he could but get the needful seconding for his own efforts. What possessed others with despair, put hope into him. It was when he saw Napoleon at the culminating point of his power, that he saw more clearly

than ever the rottenness of the foundation it was resting on. The feeling which broke forth on the first announcement of the putting away of Josephine was one of general consternation, but the Duke was not dismayed. "The Austrian marriage is a terrible event," he writes: "still, I do not despair of seeing a check to the Bonaparte system. It is all hollow within. It is so inconsistent with the wishes, the interests, and even the existence of civilised society, that he cannot trust even his brother to carry it into execution."

Never does the Duke rest his opposition to Bonaparte on less high grounds than these. The fact is worthy of greater notice than it appears to have received from those who, in no spirit of detraction, have not hesitated to describe our English captain as the illustrious defender of an effete system. Nothing in his life supports or justifies this charge. In no contemptible family quarrel had he drawn the sword, but in the universal cause of nations. Even when he went with the Bourbons to Paris in 1814, he was not blinded by the splendour of the triumphal scene which surrounded him on all sides, to the real and terrible dangers which awaited the new administration. His letter to Dumouriez is perhaps, of all his despatches, that which might be singled out as containing the most memorable evidence of his political wisdom and prescience. It is in French, and in style is one of the happiest specimens of that straightforward English idiom which he had the habit of clothing in the plainest French words. It is particularly worth reading at present, for all the years that have passed since it was written have, as yet, failed to produce the remedy for the danger it describes!

"Ce qu'il y a de pis," he writes to Dumouriez, "c'est le mécontentement général, et la pauvreté universelle. Cette malheureuse révolution et ses suites ont ruiné le pays de fond en comble. Tout le monde est pauvre, et ce qui est pis, leurs institutions empêchent qu'aucune famille devienne riche et puissante. Tous doivent donc nécessairement viser à remplir des emplois publics, non comme autrefois pour l'honneur de les remplir, mais pour avoir de quoi vivre. Tout le monde donc cherche de l'emploi public. Bonaparte laisse une armée d'un million d'hommes en France, outre les officiers prisonniers en Angleterre et en Russie. Le Roi ne peut pas en maintenir le quart. Tous ceux non employés sont mécontents. Bonaparte gouvernait directement la moitié de l'Europe, et indirectement presque l'autre moitié. Pour des causes à présent bien développées et connues, il employait une quantité infinie de personnes dans ses administrations; et tous ceux employés ou dans les administrations extérieures civiles, ou dans les administrations militaires des armées, sont renvoyés, et beaucoup de ceux employés dans les administrations intérieures; à cette classe nombreuse ajoutez la quantité d'émigrés et de personnes rentrés, tous mourant de faim, et tous convoitant de l'emploi public afin de pouvoir vivre, et vous trouverez que plus de trois quarts de la classe de la société, non employée à la main-d'œuvre ou à labourer la terre sont en état d'indigence, et, par conséquence, mécontents. Si vous considérez bien ce tableau, qui est la stricte vérité, vous y verrez la cause et la nature du danger du jour. L'armée, les officiers surtout, sont mécontents. Ils le sont pour plusieurs raisons inutiles à détailler ici, mais ce mécontentement pourra se vaincre en adoptant des mesures sages pour améliorer l'esprit."*

* What is worst is the general discontent and universal poverty. This wretched revolution and its consequences have ruined the country from top to bottom. All the world is poor, and what is worse, their institutions prevent any family from becoming rich or powerful. All must, therefore, necessarily aspire to public employments, not, as formerly, for the honour of filling them, but simply to have means to live by. All the

The "measures sages" have not, alas! been forthcoming; and the "*danger du jour*" has extended far beyond the day. The great Duke here detected the strength of the dangerous classes of France, at the very hour when all men were offering homage to himself for having fatally weakened, if not wholly destroyed them. And now, at the instant of his death, those dangerous classes find themselves uppermost again, eager to divide the public spoils of another empire, and whirling up their caps in the air for a Napoleon the Second. Forewarned is forearmed. Let us lay to our hearts in time what Wellington wrote to Lord Liverpool in rebuke of our ignorant impatience forty years ago, which would not see that the struggle against tyranny on the Continent was a struggle for freedom at home. "Were the French Government relieved from the pressure of military operations on the continent, they would incur all risks to land an army in his Majesty's dominions. Then, indeed, would commence an expensive contest; then would his Majesty's subjects discover what are the miseries of war, of which, by the blessing of God, they have hitherto had no knowledge; and the cultivation, the beauty, and prosperity of the country, and the virtue and happiness of its inhabitants, would be destroyed. Whatever might be the result of the military operations, God forbid that I should be a witness, much less an actor, in the scene!"

It is impossible not to connect these striking expressions with the fact, that on the day which closed the mortal life of the illustrious man who uttered them, one of the journals permitted to express the opinions of the existing French government published an argument on the perfect feasibility, not to say the probability, of a successful invasion of England. In the same week, too, the minister of French marine toasted the chief of the state as one who loved, and meant to restore, the French navy, because he knew that the future destiny of nations will have to be "decided in the great game of sea-fights." Mindful, then, of what has been said by him to whose genius, while he lived, we may attribute under God's blessing our ignorance of the worst "miseries of war," let us not too lightly despise or disregard the signs and portents around us. The Duke fights for us in his grave, as he fought in the field, if we profit by his experience and are guided by his example.

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

THE *Tenant-Right Movement* goes on in Ireland. On the 30th of August Mr. Sharnan Crawford was entertained at a banquet by his Tenant-right supporters at Newtownards. Besides the chief guest, there were present Mr. Frederick Lucas, Dr. Coulter, Dr. McKnight, and several other gentlemen of native notoriety. The speaking was nearly all of a local character, relating to

world, therefore, seeks the public service. Bonaparte left in France an army of a million of men, besides the officers who were prisoners in England and in Russia. The King cannot maintain a fourth part of them. All those who are not employed are discontented. Bonaparte governed half Europe directly, and indirectly the other half. For reasons which are now well developed and known, he employed an infinite number of persons in his administrations; and all those who were employed either in foreign civil administration, or in that of the armies, are turned adrift, as well as many of those who were employed in the home and internal administration. Add to this numerous class the number of emigrants and persons returning to France, all dying of hunger, and all coveting public employment for mere subsistence, and you will find that more than three-fourths of those classes of society who are not employed in cultivation of the soil, or in artisan labour, are in a state of indigence, and are therefore discontented. If you consider well this picture, which is the strict truth, you will see the source and nature of the danger of the day. The army, particularly the officers, are discontented. They are so for many reasons unnecessary to detail here, but this discontent may be overcome by adopting wise measures to improve their spirit.

the coercion used by the landlords at the late election. Many letters were read from distant sympathisers; among them one from Mr. Cobden, which is of interest, as giving a view of that gentleman's future political objects:—"One word of a practical kind. The contest in which you have lately been unsuccessful has been characterised by an unusual exercise of coercive influence on the part of the landlords over the tenantry. I am told that individual cases can be easily proved in which the hearts of electors were known to be on your side, while they were forced to poll for your opponents. I wish you to appoint a committee for the purpose of collecting facts of this kind, and putting them on permanent record, so as to be available in fighting the battle for the only remedy for such abuses of power—the ballot. Individual cases, when well authenticated, will do more than abstract arguments, however logical, to carry public opinion in favour of this, the sole mode of affording protection to the voter. I look upon a wider extension of the franchise, or more frequent elections without the ballot, to be only plans for diffusing over a still larger portion of the people the sufferings and oppressions which now characterise our electoral contests. For my own part, when Free-trade and Protection are no longer political battle-cries, I shall look forward with intense interest to the day when a really liberal and popular party shall organise itself with the pledge never to abandon the field until vote by ballot shall become the law of elections, as it is already the custom in almost every society, club, and association in the kingdom."

The *Tenant-Right Conference* commenced in Dublin on the 8th inst. Mr. Sharman Crawford presided; and among those assembled to confer were forty-one Members of Parliament and several priests. The object of the conference was to devise an organisation and parliamentary policy for the League. Mr. G. H. Moore, and Mr. Sharman Crawford himself, thought decidedly that no member ought to go to Parliament pledged to a certain course of conduct on any resolutions passed by any body out of Parliament; and such seemed to be the general understanding. Resolutions were submitted, having for their object the securing of Mr. Sharman Crawford's bill; and the conference adjourned.—On the following day these resolutions were adopted, and the conference broke up.

Two recent *Political Dinners*, the one conservative, the other whig, are of interest as indicating the views of the respective parties. At Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 7th, a dinner was given to Mr. Henry George Liddell, one of the members for South Northumberland, by the conservatives of the division. In the course of his speech, Mr. Liddell revealed his expectations from the government. "Without entering," he said, "into a lengthened discussion upon the great political questions of the day, he might be permitted to say, that he went to Parliament with the conviction that great reforms were needed in our financial system; and he thought he might also safely say, that it was by those reforms only that relief could be afforded to those interests which had suffered and still suffer from the recent changes in legislation. But he had entire confidence in the ability of that great Ministerial seer who had already conjured up the vision of a financial system, which, though still looming in distant obscurity, would ultimately emerge from its source in the substantial and useful form of a well-framed budget; which, while it provides for the necessities of the nation—while it maintains our national credit—will also give relief, where relief is due, and, if he might be allowed to use a familiar expression, will, by relieving the foot where the shoe pinches, enable that foot to keep pace with the rapid strides which other rival interests are making. (*Cheers.*) Other governments had year by year acknowledged the existence of great distress in the leading branches of internal commerce, but it remained for the present government to frame measures for the relief of those interests; and he had little doubt both of their intentions and ability so to do." Similar opinions were uttered by the other speakers; and confidence in Lord Derby's ministry was the tone of the meeting.

At the same place, on the following day a dinner was given to Mr. Ord, the late liberal member for the borough. A very enthusiastic spirit animated the

company: they loudly cheered the praises of reform and its progress during the 50 years which Mr. Ord had sat in the House of Commons, as those praises fell from the lips of Lord Grey, Lord Carlisle, and the local leaders. Next to warm eulogies on Mr. Ord, the topic which found most favour was the growth of popular power, from the disastrous times of the French revolution, down to the present day, when, according to Lord Grey, "no measure which is demanded by the majority of intelligent and educated men can be long refused, and no measure which they object to has a chance of being carried;" an assertion ratified by "tremendous cheers." Lord Carlisle energetically denied the alleged decay of sound whig principles:—"I have heard it often said, and Mr. Ord must have heard it still oftener, and said too with much positiveness and confidence, that the whigs, as a political party were extinguished, annihilated, done for, smashed; and that whiggism as a political creed, was repudiated, spat upon, dead and buried. All I can say, if this is true, is, that I have seen marvellous instances of political resurrection and political rejuvenescence. Nay more: even now, when the whig leaders, the subjects of your late toast, have been removed from office—when we are enduring the sway of a tory and protectionist, and perhaps more in will than in power, a reactionary administration—I feel convinced in my own mind, that the old whig principle is still full of youthful sap and vigour, and that, like the oak on Mount Algidus, it will continue to gather resources and vigour from each descending stroke. The party may be out of place; their chieftains may be out of power; they may no longer be on the sunny side of the street—if men choose to think it so; but I do feel in my own mind assured that their opinions and principles will still pervade the conduct of public affairs, marshalling the march of imperial government." These sentiments were received with vehement cheering. The young Earl of Durham was present, and spoke briefly. He was there, he said, to show respect to an old friend of his father, and to the liberal principles he advocated during his life.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

THE *New Rules and Orders in the Court of Chancery* have been published. The *Daily News* gives the following popular view of the changes in the practice and course of proceeding which they will effect:—"Let us endeavour to place before the lay reader the general effect of the alterations in a chancery-suit effected by the new general orders, and the act 'to amend the practice and course of proceeding in the High Court of Chancery' on which they are founded, and of which they are the complement. Hitherto the complainant has commenced his suit by filing his bill of complaint written on parchment, and summoning the persons against whom he proceeds by means of writs of subpoena to appear and defend themselves against his complaint. Beyond the fact that a bill had been filed, which he was required to answer, a defendant in a chancery-suit could know nothing of the nature of the proceeding against him until he had taken, at considerable cost, an office-copy of the bill; and practically each defendant had to take an office-copy. Then, after an interval of time—though shortened of late, still needlessly long—the defendant must put in his answer to the bill, though perhaps he admitted or denied all the allegations of the bill, or perchance had no knowledge, one way or the other, about any of them. But know he little or much about the questions asked, the defendant must answer; for the practice, under a modern general order, of serving a copy of the bill, had only a limited application. Then of every answer, useful or useless, the plaintiff had to take an office-copy; and the accumulation of paper in suits involving many details, or much documentary matter, or to which there are many defendants, often becomes perfectly frightful. Then the power a plaintiff had to compel a defendant to set forth in his answer in so many words, lengthy accounts and documents, was constantly made an engine of much oppression. In a case within our own cognizance, involving some disputed mercantile

accounts, a defendant, after some ineffectual opposition on the ground of expense, was compelled to set out in a schedule to his answer more copies of accounts from his books—the books themselves having been produced to the plaintiffs, and who had the original accounts, as delivered, in their possession, of which the stationer's charge for making a single copy amounted to 120*l*. When a chancery-suit is commenced after the 2nd of November next, the plaintiff will prepare his bill according to a concise form given in the new orders; which he must have printed 'on writing royal paper, quarto, in pica type, leaded,' with blank paper of the same kind interleaved; and this is to be filed with the Clerk of the Records. Instead of serving a subpoena, a mere writ of summons, the plaintiff must then serve each defendant with a printed copy of the bill, on which is an endorsement informing him when he must appear, and the consequences of his non-appearance; such copy having been authenticated by the stamp of the Record Clerk. The bill is to contain no interrogatories; but if the plaintiff requires an answer from any defendant, separate interrogatories may be filed for the examination of the defendant within eight days after the time limited for the defendant's appearance. Each defendant is entitled to demand ten printed copies of the bill from the plaintiff, at a fixed price, one halfpenny per folio of seventy-four words. Thus the bill having been once printed, all the various parties to the suit have the benefit of this convenient form in every stage of the proceedings; and though in some cases the first cost to the plaintiff of printing the bill may rather exceed that of a single written bill, yet in the end, the unsuccessful, as a rule, having to pay ultimately all the costs, the saving at the termination of the suit will most likely be very considerable. If amendments or additions are required to be made to the bill, they are to be printed and served in the same way as the original. The orders give a concise form for answers. But if no answer is required by the plaintiff, or thought necessary by the defendant, he merely files a replication, and leaves the plaintiff to prove his case in the best way he can. At the end of three months, if the plaintiff has not proceeded with his suit effectually, so as to bring it to a hearing, the defendant may move to dismiss the bill for want of prosecution; when the court may make such order as may be just and reasonable. Thus, a defendant can never have a suit hanging over him more than three months, unless there be substantial and active proceedings in the cause. In many cases the object is to get a speedy hearing; probably there is little or no dispute as to facts, and all that is wanted is the decision of the court on legal questions. In other cases, again, prompt decision is of the essence of justice. This is now provided for: when the defendant's time for answering has expired, the plaintiff may move for a decree, giving a month's notice and previously filing all the affidavits he means to use, and giving at the foot of his notice a list of such affidavits. In fourteen days the defendant must file his affidavits in answer, giving his opponent a list of them; who has seven days more to file affidavits, which must be confined to matters strictly in reply. When no such motion for a decree is made, but issue is joined, either party may give notice of his intention to examine the witnesses orally, when that mode of taking the evidence is to be adopted; but where neither party requires oral examinations, the evidence will be given by affidavits. Not to pursue farther at present the details of the new course of procedure, it will be obvious, that with the reciprocal power plaintiffs and defendants will have of forcing on suits to a termination, and with the necessity both parties will be under of proceeding promptly, a chancery-suit will take no longer time than may be due to the substantial merits and difficulties of each case. When to this we add the abolition of the Masters' Offices, and the substitution of the judge before whom the whole cause has to be heard, as the functionary by whom all incidental questions arising in the progress of the suit are to be decided, and the great reduction of fees payable by suitors, we may fairly anticipate that the Court of Chancery will be deemed, much more generally than heretofore, a fountain of prompt and speedy justice."

A *Dreadful Murder* has been committed near Sheffield. On the 14th instant the body of Mr. Alexander Robinson,

a draper of Doncaster, was discovered by two boys, lying in a ditch a short way from the town. The head was shattered, the pockets were rifled, and the man's hat had been thrust into an adjoining hedge. Two gunshot wounds were found in the head. The body was soon identified; and subsequent investigations led to the arrest of two men on strong circumstantial evidence. Two days before the body was found, Mr. Robinson had dined at Sheffield with James Barber, a young man, and with three other young men, all travelling drapers. James was a nephew of Mr. D. Barber, Robinson's employer; he had been in his service with Robinson; but he was discarded for embezzlement. A silver watch, intended as a gift to him, his uncle gave to Robinson. At the dinner, James Barber was heard to offer to introduce Robinson to some good customers at Gleadless, a village five miles from Sheffield; the two set out together about two o'clock, Robinson taking his pack: he was no more seen alive; the field in which his body was found was in the direction of Gleadless, but quite away from any house or public footpath. At five o'clock, Barber re-entered Sheffield, and left the deceased's pack at a public-house, where he carefully cleaned his clothes and boots. On the evening of the day on which the body was found, Robinson's watch was pawned, not by Barber, but by a companion of his—a young fellow named McCormack. Barber and McCormack were arrested; on the former the pawnbroker's ticket for the watch was found; McCormack admitted that he pawned the watch, but said he did so merely at Barber's request, to whom he gave the money. Barber denied his guilt. At the coroner's inquest, the evidence substantiated the above circumstances. Alexander Robinson was a Scotchman, twenty-four years old. At the spot where the body was found there were marks of a violent struggle; a pool of blood was covered with long dead grass. So mangled was the face of the corpse, that Mr. Barber, Robinson's employer, could only recognise the body by a peculiar formation of the feet, by the hands, and by the clothes. The prisoner McCormack was allowed to give evidence. He stated that he had been employed by Barber in his trade; he had pawned the watch at his desire. Barber accounted in various ways to different people for his sudden possession of a watch. The wife of a publican gave this evidence of a conversation with the supposed murderer: "On Monday afternoon, about two o'clock, the prisoner came to our house, and he had some chops. I said to him, 'Mr. Barber, what a dreadful murder this is!' and he replied, 'It is, poor young man.' I said, 'Have you been to see him?' He replied, 'I would not see him for fifty pounds.' I said, 'You having been companions so long, if I were you I would have run to see him, and nothing would have stopped me.' He never said anything in reply; and I said, 'What looks stranger still is, that you have not gone to Doncaster to his funeral.' He put his hand before his face, but he did not speak. I then said, 'It will be a great loss to Mr. Barber'; and he replied, 'Yes, it will; Mr. Barber will lose five hundred pounds, for he had three thousand customers about Sheffield.' I said, 'When did you hear of the murder?' 'On Friday night,' he replied." On a subsequent day, additional evidence was tendered, tracing Barber to within half a mile of the spot where the murder was committed. The jury returned a verdict of "Willful murder against James Barber." He is committed to York Castle for trial.

Mr. Simpson, of Cremorne Gardens, and Monsieur and Madame Poitevin, were charged at the Westminster police court on the 7th, with *Cruelty to Horses*, which were taken into the air suspended beneath a balloon, a person sitting on the back of either animal. The prosecution was at the instance of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The chief witness for the prosecution was Mr. Daws, a veterinary surgeon. He said the suspension of a horse to a balloon would cause "compression of the abdominal viscera, congestion of the blood-vessels in the hinder extremities, extravasation in the peritoneum lining the abdomen, producing internal bruises, and giving a great deal of pain and suffering to the animal." But when cross-examined, he said he believed the two horses in question were in good health. He thought if they were brought to him, as a veterinary surgeon, notwithstanding the "com-

pression of the abdominal viscera, and the congestion of blood-vessels in the hinder extremities, and the extravasation of the peritoneum," that he should certify that they were in good health. The compression and congestion of the blood-vessels would injure only for a time; for as soon as the cause was removed they would resume their pristine form. This witness, it appeared, was a friend of Mr. Simpson's, and had spent the evening with him, whilst he knew that this case was in preparation against him. A policeman deposed that he saw one of the horses when it descended at Wimbledon: he passed his hand over the horse, and it felt very hot; the perspiration was dropping down its shoulders; but the horse stood perfectly quiet: the eyes appeared wild, and like anything in terror—like a horse that had run away. For the defence, it was stated that the exhibition was not to be repeated. A commission had been appointed by the French Government to experiment on the suspension of horses by slings before M. Poitevin ascended: the commission pronounced that the suspension was not cruel. If it were considered cruel, it would be difficult to conjecture what might not next be deemed cruelty. The fairies and angels that flitted across the stages of our theatres might be embodied in the catalogue; they were suspended in a far less comfortable manner, by a mere band. A number of witnesses, including the Poitevins and several veterinary surgeons, declared that there was no cruelty in the suspension. The magistrate deferred giving his decision; and, on the 13th, he gave judgment. While condemning such exhibitions, and stating his opinion that it was really, though not legally, cruel to place animals in a position where they were helpless if a mishap occurred, he dismissed the summonses: it had not been proved that the ponies had been cruelly treated by the defendants—that the animals had suffered either pain or fear. The same parties were charged, at the 14th petty sessions, with *Cruelty to a Heifer*, Madame Poitevin having ascended on its back in a balloon from Cremorne Gardens. The magistrates inflicted a fine of 5*l.* on each of the three defendants, refusing, when urged by counsel, to remit the fine on Madame Poitevin. Mr. Simpson addressed the bench, earnestly declaring that he never would have sanctioned any exhibition in which cruelty was inflicted on animals; and he announced that no more ascents with animals are to be made from Cremorne.

Outrages, usual at this season in Ireland, are taking place by tenants, in *Resisting Distraints for Rent*. Among other cases, the papers contain the following. On the night of the 9th inst., about 12 o'clock, a party of men unknown, about ten, arrived on the lands of Carrigao, in the parish of Lisgoold, and seized James Ryan and Patrick Buckley, keepers in charge of a distress for rent due of John Murphy and James Terry, tied their hands and legs, and then tied the men together, in which state they were found in a field by a female at an early hour next morning, who untied them, the corn and hay under seizure having been removed off the land during the night. The property, when the distress was made, was in the Court of Chancery, in the suit of W. Morrough, Esq., against G. S. Barry, Esq., and has been lately sold in the Encumbered Estates Court. The seizure was made by receiver Edwary Barry, Esq., of the Court of Chancery, for the last March rent, and it is supposed the offence in question had occurred under the idea that all power of the receiver ceased on the property being purchased. The keepers cannot identify any of the party, who had no arms, neither was there any violence done more than tying them together.

On the morning of the 14th instant, a party unknown broke open the barn of John Bagott, of Castletreasure, and carried away a great quantity of oats which was seized for rent due by Daniel Whelan, of the same place, and placed in the barn under the charge of Daniel Sullivan, a labourer, who said the corn was carried away on ears whilst he was asleep.

Mr. O'Callaghan Ryan, a gentleman much esteemed in his neighbourhood, has been *Murdered* in the county of Waterford. Mr. Ryan resided in Clonmel, and possessed some property in the parish of Newcastle. Having occasion to take legal proceedings against some of his tenants, the necessary process issued to enable him to evict them. Mr. Ryan wished to give them one more

trial preparatory to executing the ejection; and with that view, proceeded to Clashanny, to endeavour to come to amicable terms with the parties. About seven o'clock in the evening, as he was returning home, he was fired at, near Kilmanahan, a few miles from Clonmel, and afterwards dragged inside the ditch; and, lest the gunshot-wound should prove insufficient for the accomplishment of the bloody deed, his head was battered with a bill-hook, or some such instrument. A policeman hearing the report of the gun, at once hastened to the spot; where he perceived Mr. Ryan's horse standing without its rider, and also marks about the ditch which induced him to enter the plantation, which skirts the road at either side; and, being guided by traces of blood, he soon discovered the mangled corpse. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown." On the following day two men, named Hackett and Norman, were arrested on suspicion. There were spots of blood on their clothes; and they had a hatchet with them also bloody. Three other men have since been arrested. The government have offered a reward of 100*l.* for the conviction of the murderers.

A recent inquest on the body of an old woman, who died in a state of intoxication in a filthy den in Clerkenwell, gave occasion to some remarks by Mr. Wakley, the coroner, on the mischief done by those *Charitable Institutions which support Vagrants in a state of Idleness*. Mr. Wakley said: "The charity of the metropolis is too indiscriminate; and thus the deserving poor are unheeded, and drunken, reckless characters, are well provided for, either by private munificence or workhouse relief, which enables them to lead an idle merry life. The money they get is squandered in drink, and at night for a few pence they obtain a bed in a wretched stinking hovel, where alarges, both sexes, and all diseases are crowded together, forming so many plague-factories and disease-depots. By such means these hovels are supported and kept up. I was much pleased at reading in the *Times* of yesterday, an ably-written article condemnatory of the system of administering indiscriminate charity; and I hope that it will be put down, for so long as a vagrant can live without working he will do so. So convinced am I of the consequences of the evil, that I have ceased to be a Vice-President to the Soup Kitchen. In fact begging has become a regular trade. A few years ago, one of the fellows who followed that avocation was examined before a committee of the House of Commons, and stated that he had travelled over the kingdom for nine years as a beggar; that he was treated as a gentleman in prison, but most disgracefully in work-houses, especially in Lambeth, where he had to work before breakfast; that a slouched hat and a smock-frock, with a bundle of herbs in his hand, formed the best garb for a London beggar; and that there were not ten out of one hundred vagrants worthy of relief. Such are the disclosures made by him regarding the begging-trade. I am, however, happy that the press has taken up the subject, and trust that it will not cease its efforts until this monster evil is completely put down, and thus prevent charitable institutions being abused, and their funds wasted upon lazy worthless characters." The jury concurred in the justice of these remarks, and the foreman promised to lay before the Vestry and the Board of Guardians of the Holborn Union the result of the inquiry, with the view of having immediate measures adopted to improve the sanitary condition of the neighbourhood; as he deemed it most important, at a crisis when a fruitful epidemic was desolating not far distant countries.

Mr. Solly's *Indiscriminate Charity* has given rise to further police proceedings. Three women were charged before the Lord Mayor, on the 1st inst., with being common beggars and impostors. They formed part of the numerous crowd of vagrants who dog the steps of Mr. Solly. It was considered useless to call that gentleman as a witness; but his steward was examined, and said—"My lord, it is quite impossible to give you a correct idea of the scenes I witness daily. Our persecution begins in Great Ormond-street, and master is besieged by all sorts of beggars, from the tip-top begging ladies in silk stockings and shawls, down to the lowest poor creatures without any stockings at

all. I have seen the three women at the bar frequently receive money from him; in fact, they would not leave him without dragging money from him. Sometimes the beggars abuse him in the most shocking manner, so that the ladies in the street are quite ashamed at the scene. Sometimes they fight among themselves, and accuse each other of getting all from the old —. People would suppose that the newspapers would frighten them off: quite the other way. Ever since the account of my master and his beggars was published, he has been ten times more solicited. I am now obliged to take up his letters on the largest-sized waiter; and the crowds of fashionable beggars that apply to him would astonish any one in his senses." The Lord Mayor observed—"Surely the representation of the very great impediment Mr. Solly causes in the city must have some effect in giving a better direction to his charity. It is quite impossible that such a nuisance can be endured in our crowded and busy streets. I sentence each of these defendants to hard labour in prison for one month."

A remarkable instance of evident *Imposture and Credulity* has occurred in the county of Suffolk. Near Ipswich there is a village called Shottisham, in which there lives a family named Squirrel. One of the Squirrels—Elizabeth—has turned out a prodigy. At school, says the local journalist, she showed "great natural ability," and remarkable aptitude for study. At the age of twelve in June 1850, she went home in consequence of illness, caused by over-work at school. She had the best medical advice, but grew worse, and at length lock-jaw set in. She continued to live by suction for some time. In Midsummer, 1851, she recovered from lock-jaw, but remained deaf and blind; yet in this state continued to exist by suction alone. And now her fame began to spread—for numbers had visited her; and her talk and her writings were reported to be so eloquent and so touching, especially on religious subjects, that she was regarded as little less than one inspired. The marvel increased. For the last three months she is said to have lived without food. In this state she declared that she had seen a vision of angels, one of whom had consented to become her constant guardian; and that she was the special object of God's favour; as heavenly music (sounding very much like the ringing of glass) testified, for it was swept by the wing of the invisible angel. The *Ipswich Express* says that the excitement among the people of Suffolk has been very great.—"Medical men, clergymen, Dissenting ministers, carriage aristocracy, gig, cart, and foot folk, alike shared in the intense desire to gaze on this extraordinary child, and to listen to the words which fell from her with as much weight as if she really had indisputable credentials that she was an oracle from Heaven. On being asked when and how this mystic scene would end, she replied, 'Oh! in my triumphant entrance into glory.'" As a matter of course there were sceptics among the visitors, who desired to test the miracle. A watch was organised and kept upon the girl. Nothing could be discovered, until a Reverend Mr. Webb thought he detected certain indications anything but miraculous, implying that Elizabeth Squirrel did not differ from other mortals in her subjection to physical laws. The report of these watchers however does not seem to have been accepted as conclusive; and the miraculous nature of the case is still insisted on by many of Miss Squirrel's partisans.

A melancholy case has occurred of *Attempted Suicide by Voluntary Starvation*. Two maiden ladies, who had seen better days, went to lodge in the neighbourhood of the Edgware Road. Late they locked themselves in, and so aroused the suspicions of the landlady. By a device she obtained admission, and found them starving. She offered food; they refused it; and on her departure they again locked the door. But moans were heard; the door was forced, and the authorities interfered just in time to save them from death by starvation. They were taken to the Marylebone Infirmary, cared for, and are recovering. It appears they had come to London to seek a livelihood by the needle; and failing in that, had resolved rather to die than "bring disgrace on their family by applying for relief."

An atrocious *Murder* has been committed in Clare. The victim, Mr. Thomas Stackpoole, was a young man under 20; the reported murderer was his uncle, who bore the same name. The young man was to have come into possession of property to the extent of 60*l.* or 70*l.* per annum on attaining his majority, and in the event of his death this annuity would revert to the uncle, Thomas Stackpoole, as next of kin. On the night of Saturday, the 18th inst, the young man arrived at his uncle's house at Bleanalega, near Miltown Malbay, having been previously invited to spend the following Sunday with him, and shortly after his arrival, it would appear, the diabolical act was committed. His mutilated remains were found on Sunday afternoon, some distance from his uncle's house, at a place near the Sand-hills, the skull dreadfully battered, his cap on his head, nearly clean, and having the appearance of being put on after the murder, and his boots lying near his head, also clean, and just as if they had been deliberately placed there. In consequence of the uncle having absented himself on Sunday, suspicion was aroused, and he and his family were arrested soon after the body was found. A little child of his becoming alarmed, afterwards began to cry out, said it was not she did it, and named some persons who she said had committed the foul deed in the house on Saturday night, while the deceased was in bed. When the inquest was held, a man named Richard Stackpoole, a distant relative of the deceased, surrendered himself, and intimated his readiness to reveal the entire circumstances. His account is similar to the child's but more detailed, and implicates the uncle and aunt of deceased, Richard Stackpoole (the informer), himself and wife, and the servant boy of Thomas Stackpoole (the uncle.) It appears that deceased made great resistance, and there is a cut between the forefinger and thumb of one hand, as if received in warding off the murderous blows of his cruel assailant; and the same arm is also cut in several places. After the murder was committed, it is said one of the women carried him on her back to the spot in which the body was found. The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the circumstances, and the accused parties will be tried at the next assizes.

At the Middlesex Sessions, on the 20th, Thomas Scott, butler to Matthew Forster, Esq., M.P., pleaded guilty to an indictment, in which he was charged with having *Stolen* many articles of silver plate, value 200*l.*, the property of his master. The prisoner had been fifteen or sixteen years in Mr. Forster's service. On the 27th of August, a Highland dirk was missed from the drawing-room, and in consequence a constable was sent for; and on his arrival an examination was made of the contents of the plate-chest. It was then ascertained that the property mentioned in the indictment had been abstracted. The prisoner was given into custody; and afterwards he admitted having made away with the property. At the police-court he made this statement:—"I pawned all the plate myself, not with the intention of not redeeming it. I fell into misfortunes; and if I had a few days I should have redeemed it. Horse-racing brought me to it. Sometimes I had a thousand pounds in hand, and at other times I have been without a penny." A good deal of the property had been recovered from various pawnbrokers, with whom it had been pledged at different periods during the last three months, and in one instance he had represented that he was Mr. Forster's confidential servant, and was pawning the plate for the use of the family, who did not want such a circumstance to be known. Mr. Forster, addressing the court, said he wished to recommend the prisoner to its indulgence, on account of the length of time he had been in the service of the family, but more particularly because it appeared that he owed his present position to the mischievous "betting-office" system. There were not at present any means for putting down these nurseries of crime, and until there were, he thought their unfortunate victims ought scarcely to be visited with severity. Mr. Witham, the magistrate, said this was an extremely kind recommendation, and had saved the prisoner from a sentence of transportation; not because it appeared that he had been a victim to betting-offices, but because he had for many years been a

faithful servant. Any man who became connected with these disgraceful places ought to be ashamed of himself; and it gave a feature of aggravation, not of palliation, to an offence. The sentence was, that the prisoner be kept to hard labour for one year.

Cornelius Tripe and Henry Graham Montague, who, it will be remembered, were committed on the charge of obtaining money under false pretences—the pretences being that they were acting under the authority of a *Fictitious Gold Mining and Emigration Company*, were tried and convicted at the Central Criminal Court on the 21st inst., and sentenced to transportation for seven years.

Richard Sill, the attorney who was convicted at the last sessions of the Central Criminal Court (see *Household Narrative* for August, page 173) for *Obtaining Money on False Pretences*, was brought up for judgment on the 23d inst., and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour in the House of Correction for two years.

Two soldiers of the 31st regiment stationed at Fermoys have been *Attacked by the Country People* in the neighbourhood of the barracks, when one of them was killed on the spot, and the other dangerously wounded. It appears that this occurrence is connected with the unfortunate Six Mile Bridge affair, and that the soldiers have been the victims of a sanguinary retaliation.

A singular investigation has taken place before the Bishop of Exeter, in consequence of charges of *Popish Practices* brought forward against a clergyman of his diocese. These charges were preferred, by clergymen having local cures, against the Rev. G. R. Prynn, incumbent of St. Peter's, at Eldad, near Plymouth. Mr. Prynn, it was alleged, had set up a confessional in his church, where confession was secretly carried on, and compulsorily as regarded the girls belonging to the Orphans' Home, a school set up by Miss Sellon; and that confession was enforced upon very young children, from twelve years of age. It had been alleged by a girl of fourteen, that she had frequently confessed to Mr. Prynn, and that he had put questions to her of a most indecent kind. Evidence was heard; consisting of the written and spoken statements of the girl, her mother, several Sisters of Mercy, and clergymen. The published reports have been mutilated; but it was stated by two clergymen that the girl made the most disgusting communications to them in private. As to the allegations, they are utterly denied by Mr. Prynn. He says there is no confessional in the church, and certainly no one could prove that there was one; but he admits to receiving persons to confess. He does put leading questions, but he is judicious and careful in putting them. Such doubts were thrown on the girl's statements by her contradictions and the allegations of those who knew her conduct, that the Bishop did not deem them conclusive; and he declared, "as a man, a Christian, and a bishop," that it would be the "grossest injustice to withhold the confirmation in Mr. Prynn's church," [one of the objects sought to be obtained by the inquiry]; saying, moreover, that he felt bound to declare his opinion of Mr. Prynn's innocence in that emphatic manner. This decision has excited some surprise, as the charges appear to have been very imperfectly investigated.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

A SHOCKING *Steamboat Accident* took place on Lake Erie, near Buffalo, on the 28th ult. About 2 o'clock in the morning the steamer Atlantic came into collision with the propeller Ogsdenburg. A dense fog prevailed; and, as the numerous passengers on board the Atlantic, composed chiefly of Norwegian emigrants, were unable to see the exact nature of their danger, they were greatly alarmed, and several leaped overboard. The captain endeavoured to restore confidence, and the steamer kept on her course; the water, however, gained rapidly on them, despite the efforts of the crew, and by the time they had proceeded about two miles from the spot where the collision took place, it was found that the vessel was rapidly sinking, the fires in the engine-room being extinguished by the water. The emigrants, who could not understand a word spoken to them, by their cries and

terrors added to the horrors of the scene. The cabin passengers, and all who could be made to understand, were exhorted by the captain and officers to remain in the cabin, and provide themselves with chairs, settees, beds, &c., all of which were patent life-preservers, and would buoy them up in the water. Numbers, however, unheeding or not understanding the advice given them, rushed overboard to certain death. At about half-past two o'clock, amidst the wild shrieks of the passengers, the steamer settled and sank. The propeller had kept in the wake of the Atlantic, and those on board her did all in their power to preserve the lives of the hundreds of human beings who were now seen struggling in the water. The fog hindered their efforts, but about 150 were rescued. The last persons taken from the boat were Mr. Givan, clerk of the boat, and Mr. Buell, first engineer. The steamer had then sunk all but her stern, and they, with some Illinois passengers, were clinging to a rope attached to a floating mast and the wreck, being up to their shoulders in water. As soon as the shrieks of the drowning passengers were hushed, the voice of a little boy was heard, and it was then first discovered that a child, about eight years old, was also clinging to a rope a short distance off. The little fellow talking to himself, was saying, "Oh, I can't hold on much longer! If papa was here he would hold me up." A man from Illinois, a fine powerful fellow, immediately moved a long rope, and seized the boy as he was about to sink. He held him for some time, and called out to Givan to come to his relief, as he was nearly exhausted by the weight. Givan made an attempt to reach him, but in vain. At that moment the boat of the propeller, loaded to the water's edge with rescued passengers, passed, and Givan hailed them, and entreated them to save the boy. Mr. Blodgett, first mate of the Atlantic, who was on board, jumped out, and swam to the rope, took the boy off, and returned to the boat. He was thus saved. The little fellow was with his uncle, who was drowned. The next boat from the propeller took off the clerk, first engineer, and the Illinois passenger. The rescued passengers were conveyed to Erie, where on landing they assembled together for the purpose of returning thanks to God for their deliverance. It was stated that about 200 persons, composed chiefly of poor emigrants, had perished. Among the list of missing is the name of Mrs. Cornwell, sister of Elihu Burritt.

Railway Accidents continue to hold a prominent place in the news of the month. The following have occurred since the beginning of September: While a train heavily laden with passengers was going at thirty miles an hour, at the Lenton Junction, near Nottingham, the engine burst, the passengers were enveloped in steam and smoke, and the train came to a stop. Many persons left the carriages in their fright, but no further mishap occurred. The driver was much burnt and scalded; but the stoker escaped by climbing to the far side of the tender. It appeared that a steam-tube had recently been damaged, and was soldered and plugged: the steam forced the plug into the fire. This patching of steam-tubes is denounced as very dangerous.

As the morning express train from London, on the Bristol and Exeter railway, near Taunton, was running round a curve, just beyond the Chard Canal bridge, the engine and tender broke away, left the rails, and ploughed into the bank of a cutting; the luggage-van fell upon the bank, having separated from the four passenger-carriages; these dashed onwards, one wheel got on to the up-line, and the vehicles came to a stand. The front compartment of the first carriage was smashed: fortunately it was used for luggage. After the carriages had passed, the van fell back across the rails: this part of the matter was something wonderful; a corner of the van grazed each carriage as it passed, making a groove all along the train. Only one passenger was hurt—a gentleman whose forehead was cut by the rim of a hat on the head of a person sitting opposite to him. The railway men were less fortunate. Humberstone, the fireman, was killed—crushed into the earth, under the wreck of the engine and tender; Eaton the driver's hand was smashed; and a porter's leg and thigh were fractured. The telegraph posts and wires were destroyed. An up express-train arrived immediately after the disaster, but

stopped in time to escape another accident. Assistance was soon got from Taunton, whither the wounded men were conveyed. At the inquest on Humberstone's body, Capt. Laffan, the Government Inspector, was examined, but was unable to account for the accident. The jury stated in their verdict, that of the cause of the accident they had no satisfactory evidence; but they added: "We have, however, sufficient evidence before us to show that the portion of the line upon which the accident happened is naturally defective in respect of the soft stratum on which the rails are laid, particularly after wet weather. This ought to be remedied."

An aged woman has been *Killed* on the railway at Baschurch, near Shrewsbury, by a train running over her at night. A railway labourer saw her on the line, and warned her that she was trespassing; she replied, "I know all about it!" She refused to give her name, or say where she was going; the man said he would follow her; she exclaimed, "If you follow me, I will knock your brains out!" The man then left her. Poor people are in the habit of going on the line to pick up pieces of coke. A coroner's jury gave a verdict of "Accidentally killed;" and the railway man was reprimanded for not forcibly ejecting the deceased from the line.

There has been an *Accident* on the Scottish Central Railway. A luggage-train came to a stand in a tunnel near Perth; notice was sent to the man on guard at the entrance; yet he allowed a mail-train to enter the tunnel on the same rails: the result was a collision. The guard of the goods-train was much hurt, and many passengers in the mail-train suffered. The scene in the tunnel—the terrified and wounded passengers screaming in the darkness—was frightful.

A goods-train ran into a passenger-train at Monkton station, near Ayr: this was a flagrant case of *Accident* by neglect. The passenger-train was stopping at the station as usual; when the other train approached the danger-signals were up; but the driver took no heed of them, and continued his course. A porter gave the alarm to the driver of the stationary train; who immediately put on his steam; but there was not time to avoid a crash. A carriage was smashed to pieces, and many passengers were hurt: one person received a concussion of the brain; another had a rib fractured; and the collar-bone of a third was broken.

A *Dreadful Accident* happened on the 8th. An ordinary passenger-train, from Sheffield to Retford, had not advanced four miles from the starting-place, before it ran off the line, tore up the rails for some distance, and then the engine dashed down the embankment, fifty feet high, on one side, while the carriages rolled over on the other. The guard was killed on the spot, the engine-driver was buried under the engine, and the stoker escaped from the same place. Wright, the engine-driver, did not die until the following evening; enduring the most exquisite agonies. He has left a wife, and a child by a former wife. It is stated that about two months ago he ran his engine into another, at Leeds, for which he was suspended, and that this fatal Wednesday was the first day on which he had resumed work.—Tuckwood, the guard, was a Londoner, and only twenty-four years of age; he had been married only a few months.

An *Accident* occurred on the London and Birmingham line on the morning of the 13th. The accounts of it next day were exceedingly various. The following seems the most probable. A relay of the rails of the up-line is taking place between 200 yards north of the Leighton station to within about 100 yards north of the 4½ mile post of the line. Various precautions are stated to have been dictated to the engine-drivers of the line. A cross line had also been laid down; and signal-men had been appointed to remind the drivers of the necessity of caution. In addition to this, a pilot-engine had been stationed near the relaying, under the conduct of which all trains were to make the transit. The 6.30 down-train, heavily laden, arrived in due course at Leighton. The pilot-engine came up to the Leighton-station, and having been attached to the down-train, proceeded with it over the single line to that point where the relaying of the up-line terminated. The pilot was then unhooked from the engine of the down-

train, and proceeded at a rapid speed on to the crossing, in order to pass on to the up-line to allow the down-train to pass. The pilot-engine had nearly reached the crossing, and was partially crossing on to the up-line, when the down-train, the engine of which had been kept by Pattison the driver following at too fast a speed, caught the left-hand hind-buffer of the tender, dashing it across the line down the embankment, and throwing the pilot-engine round across the up-line. The shock was so tremendous, that the engine of the passenger down-train had its front completely stove in, and was also, together with its tender, thrown over across the down-line; and four or five of the carriages of the down-train also being thrown off the down-line, the entire road up and down was perfectly blocked. The passengers escaped with little more damage than a fright; but a policeman was dangerously hurt. When Captain Bruyeres, the General Superintendent, examined the drivers, they threw the blame on each other.

A fatal *Coach Accident* occurred on the evening of the 4th, which caused the death of Mr. George Hemming, many years known as coachman on the Shrewsbury road. He left Worcester about half-past four o'clock, and having reached Bromsgrove, changed horses, and proceeded towards Birmingham. He had then on the coach twelve outside and four inside passengers, and was proceeding along at an ordinary pace until he arrived at about twenty yards beyond the Long Bridge Turnpike Gate. Here he perceived a horse and cart approaching him on the wrong side, and called out to the driver to turn. The man not doing so immediately, Hemming, in order to escape him, attempted to cross the road, when the driver of the cart unfortunately did the same, and a collision took place. The forewheel of the coach was driven inside the cart-wheel, and Hemming was thrown from the box with great violence, and falling on his head received a fracture, from the effects of which he expired almost instantly. All the passengers on the top of the coach were thrown off, and the vehicle being turned over, fell upon and severely injured many of them. Six young females who were on the outside of the coach escaped unhurt.

A tremendous *Storm of Thunder and Rain* did much mischief in the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford, during the night of Saturday the 5th inst. Its greatest violence was felt in the county of Worcester, westward of the Severn. For twelve hours the rain descended in torrents, accompanied with fearful lightning and thunder. The greatest ravages were inflicted on the valley of the Teme river, which runs from Herefordshire and Shropshire, and falls into the Severn about two miles below Worcester. Upon this river, and its tributary streams Laughern and Leigh brooks, the destruction of property has been very great. Most of the bridges upon these streams have been blown up, or are so far damaged that they will require rebuilding. The rise of water upon the Teme was the most rapid and the highest upon record. The destruction of crops and live stock along the Severn valley has been dreadful. Nearly all of the wheat had been got in; but large fields of beans were swept away, and whole hop-yards—in which the valley of the Teme abounds—were destroyed. The damage done to the meal and grain in the corn-mills in these valleys is great: and the number of sheep washed away in the parish of Powick alone, is reckoned at 2000! Among the losers are the poor villagers of Powick, who have the right of depasture on a common near the river called Powick Ham. The whole of the sheep on the ham were swept away. Next day, when the waters had partially subsided, carcasses of sheep were seen lying about in all directions. At Hanwick Mill two men had a narrow escape: they were overtaken on the road by the flood, had to swim to a tree, and remain there for hours till rescued. At Stone Bridge, on the Leigh brook, a cottage was swept away, and a woman was drowned.

The Dhurtpore, emigrant ship, has been *Lost* on her passage from Liverpool to New Orleans. This vessel was about 1,500 tons burden, having a crew of 35 hands and 485 souls (men, women, and children) as passengers, the latter, with the exception of 56, being all Irish, and generally young people of the peasant class of life. She left Liverpool on the morning of the 16th inst., and

during the night of the 17th, struck on the north end of the Long Bank, a little eastward of the Forth. The descriptions given by some of the sufferers of the scene which followed are horrifying. All the passengers were in their berths when the vessel struck, and it does not as yet appear whether any blame is to be attached to the captain or officers. On the calamity being known at Wexford, great exertions were made to send assistance to the passengers and crew; and, before the ship went to pieces, all the people on board were brought on shore, with the exception of five persons, who were unfortunately drowned. The *Bhurtpore* was a fine ship, and only on her second voyage.

A shocking *Accident* has occurred at the terminus of the Brighton Railway. On the 21st, a widow lady, named Eastwood, who resided in Edward-street, had arrived at the Brighton terminus from London, and in stepping from the carriage next the break whilst the train was in motion, she missed the platform, and one foot went between it and the step of the carriage. She was immediately dragged under the carriage wheels, in spite of the attempt to rescue her, and one of the wheels passed over her left foot, and nearly severed it, whilst the other leg sustained very serious injury. She was also much bruised about the body. She was conveyed to the County Hospital, when it was deemed expedient to amputate both legs. The operation was skillfully performed, the patient exhibiting great fortitude; but she died on the following morning.

Second Lieutenant Walter Scott Reeves, of the Artillery corps of Royal Marines, and a waterman, have been drowned while attempting to cross from Portsmouth to Ryde. Their boat was found by Major Martin while he was yachting, and she had evidently been upset; and a hat-case, labelled "Lieutenant Reeves," was also picked out of the sea; these were the first intimations of what had happened.

While Mr. David Rees, a farmer, and his little grandson were standing at the door of the house during a storm, at Cevennigir, in Wales, they were struck by the lightning. Medical aid recovered the child, but the grandfather was dead.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

A SUMMARY of the proceedings of the commission for the sale of *Encumbered Estates*, since the commencement of the sittings in November, 1819, to the 1st of September, 1852, has been published. It is as follows:

Number of petitions presented by creditors . . .	1,656
Number lodged by owners	485
Number presented by assignees of insolvents . . .	275
Total number of petitions presented . . .	2,416

Total amount of incumbrances as stated in the schedules to said petitions	£30,515,316
Nett annual rental of estates sought to be sold by said 2,416 petitions, and applicable to pay said incumbrances	1,150,000
Number of estates sold in court to last auction day, 772 of which property in Leinster produced	1,969,260
Munster produced	2,433,249
Ulster produced	1,261,471
Connaught produced	1,491,052

The total amount produced by auction in COURT WARS	£1,705,907
Produced by auction in the provinces	1,573,858
Produced by private sale	935,318

Total amount realised by said 772 estates . . . £7,215,983
Total number of purchasers 2336, of whom there were about 120 resident out of Ireland.

Total number of conveyances executed 2,311
Total number of petitions presented in which the allocation schedule has been settled, the money paid to the parties entitled, and the proceedings entirely disposed of . 420

Total number of titled persons for the sale of whose estates petitions have been presented to the commissioners:—Two marquises, fifteen earls, three viscounts, one lord, five barons, six honourables, one right honourable, twenty baronets, five knights, two counts, seven M.P.s, and nine ex-M.P.s. The greatest number of petitions

presented in one month was 139 (November, 1849,) and the least number in one month was 26 (September, 1851). The greatest amount of property sold was situated in the counties of Galway and Cork.

The *British Association* has had its meeting this year at Belfast. On the 1st inst. Captain Sabine, the president, delivered his inaugural address, which was of great length, and dwelt chiefly on topics drawn from the applicate sciences. On subsequent days sectional meetings were held, and scientific papers were read by eminent men. The most remarkable were, a paper on the census of Bombay, by Colonel Sykes; on the productive industry of Paris, by the late Mr. G. R. Porter, (read by Mr. McAdam); and on emigration and its reparative agencies in Ireland, by Mr. Locke; a highly-important paper. The session of the association was closed on the 8th, at a general meeting for the purpose, in Dr. Cooke's church. Mr. Hopkins is appointed president of the next meeting; which is to be held at Hull: the other towns competing for the honour were Leeds, Brighton, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Dublin. The total of money-grants recommended amounts to 355*l.*, of which sum 200*l.* is appropriated for the maintenance of the Kew Observatory. The remainder is to be appropriated in small sums, principally for the prosecution of investigations already commenced. The establishment of an observatory in the Southern hemisphere is again to be pressed on the notice of the government. The financial success of the meeting at Belfast has been very striking as compared with the meeting at Ipswich. The total amount received for tickets at Belfast has been 1106*l.*; at Ipswich it was 711*l.* The number of associates at Belfast has been 510, and of ladies 292; the respective numbers at Ipswich were 246 and 141.

The *Progress of the Cholera* on the continent of Europe is giving rise to some measures of precaution on the part of our public bodies. The Board of Health have expressed their formal opinion to the government that two medical officers should be specially appointed to take such steps as may seem best calculated to meet and mitigate any attack of cholera upon this country. At a meeting of the committee of management of the Royal Free Hospital, it has been resolved, "That in consequence of the existence of malignant cholera in the northern parts of Europe, it is greatly to be feared that the disease may again visit this metropolis; and that, in order to afford every facility for the relief of the poor who may be afflicted with that malady, the premises belonging to the hospital, lately in the occupation of Mr. Seddon, which are capable of containing 300 additional beds, be not relet at present, but kept ready for the reception of cholera patients, in case of the emergency arising."

The *Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers* have adopted the following important resolution, and have appointed a committee to carry it out:—

"That inasmuch as it appears to the court that the cholera is rapidly approaching this country and metropolis, and it is urgently necessary for the public health that foul open sewers and ditches should be covered over, and other aggravated nuisances removed; and inasmuch as the commissioners have failed in their endeavours, under the existing law, to raise the sums required for the execution of such works by loan on the security of the sewer-rates, it is, in the opinion of this court, expedient and necessary that immediate application be made to her Majesty's government for a temporary advance of such a sum as will enable the commissioners to execute the works of urgent necessity above adverted to."

Tottenham has set an example to the other districts of the metropolis, in the important matter of *Drainage and Water-supply*. There a local Board of Health has been formed, and has actually carried out the objects of the Public Health Act. There are about 1500 inhabited houses in the district; and the necessary drainage and water-supply for these have been completed at a cost of 7500*l.* The charge for water will amount to about 2*d.* per week per house on an average. Glazed earthenware pipes have been substituted for the old brick drains; a constant current of water at high pressure will keep these thoroughly clean, and sweep away all noxious matter before the process of decomposition has even begun. The supply of "pure soft water obtained from the deep springs will be neither exposed in open reservoirs to the sun and the atmosphere, nor exposed in

cisterns and water-butts to the dust and other worse impurities, from which, under the old system, it is found to suffer so much contamination, but will be delivered into every house (and upon every floor if required) fresh, cool, well aerated, and constantly ready to flow." And thus the vexations of ball-cocks, cisterns, and water-butts, will be wholly got rid of. In case of fire, hydrants are plentifully distributed. The report further states, that "the total expense of these advantages of perfect drainage, with the use of a separate water-closet, together with an abundant supply of pure soft water, with a separate tap for each house, will probably be somewhat less than 3*d.* per week for each house, such as those occupied by the working classes, viz. not exceeding 10*l.* per annum rental; being, of course, higher for houses of greater value in proportion to the greater accommodation required." It is remarkable that the cost of obtaining the necessary legal powers under the Public Health Act was not quite 67*l.*

The *Free Library of Manchester* was opened on the 2nd inst. with a formal ceremony. In the upper room of the building, about a thousand persons were assembled, including the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Wilton, the Bishop of Manchester, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Sir James Stephen, Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. John Bright, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Charles Knight, Dr. Vaughan, and Mr. Felkin, Mayor of Nottingham. Among the ladies present were the Countess of Wilton and the Honourable Misses Egerton. Sir John Potter was the chairman of the day: his share of the proceedings consisted in reading a history of the institution, and formally handing the title-deeds of the building and its contents over to the mayor in trust for the people. Appropriate resolutions were moved and seconded, and addresses delivered by the Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Thackeray, Sir James Stephen, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. Bright, Mr. C. Knight, Mr. P. Cunningham, Dr. Vaughan, and the Bishop of Manchester.

The Commissioners of Customs have issued the following important notices, respecting the *Redress to be obtained by the owners of vessels, &c., in the case of improper seizure*:

"The commissioners of her Majesty's Customs hereby give notice, that directions have been issued to the officers of the customs in the United Kingdom, that whenever they seize or stop a vessel, boat, or goods, they are to furnish the owner, when he is known, or his agent, with a written notice, specifying the grounds of detention.

"The commissioners of her Majesty's Customs hereby give notice, that they will be prepared, in any case of seizure in London under the Customs laws, upon application being made to them in writing, and where the owner of the goods, &c., may be desirous of such a course, to appoint one of the members of the Board to take the evidence on oath of the merchants or other parties claiming the property, on the one side, and of the detaining officers on the other, supported by that of any witnesses that may be necessary for the proper investigation of the case, and to report the same for the Board's decision; agreeably to the practice at present observed in cases of complaints by merchants and others against officers."

Bortholomew Fair was held in the first week of this month; but this relic of ancient barbarism is now reduced to a mere name. As lately as 1830, upwards of 200 booths for toys and gingerbread crowded the pavements around the fair, and overflowed into the adjacent streets. In 1852 only two stalls were to be seen. In 1830, Richardson, Saunders, Wombwell, were in the ascendant, with their menageries, equestrian, and melodramatic shows. Merry-Andrews, puppets, and fools in motley, abounded in all directions—the air rang with the din, and clangor, and thumping of drums and the blowing of trumpets. Public-houses and drinking-booths were open until morning, challenged the night, and then only closed for a brief respite; while, by night as well as by day, pickpockets, rioters, and loose persons of both sexes, entered the arena, and woe waited upon any unfortunate wight who appeared amongst them without being qualified for the association, by belonging to one or other of these classes. In 1852, not a single show was to be seen on the ground, and the public-houses were as quiet and orderly as upon other occasions. This extraordinary change has been produced by mild means adopted by the corporation, in harmony with the

advancing spirit of the age, and the improving manners of the humbler classes. For 300 years the Lord Mayor and aldermen had tried orders and proclamations, and juries, and presentments, but without effect. At length the Common Council set to work in earnest to put down a nuisance which brought disgrace upon the corporation. Having obtained entire control over the whole fair by the purchase of Lord Kensington's interest, they refused to let standings for shows and booths, they prevailed upon the Lord Mayor and sheriffs to give up the absurd practice of going to open the fair in grand state, with a herald to proclaim it, and officers of state to marshal the procession—the proclamation formerly stuck about the streets interdicting rioting and debauchery during the days of the fair and within its precincts were discontinued—they did but remind the evil-disposed of former practices which, when they ceased to be mentioned, ceased to be remembered. The consequence of this course of proceeding is now manifested by the altered condition of the fair. The Lord Mayor, who went in his private carriage to Smithfield to go through the necessary ceremony of reading the document reciting the charter under which the property is holden, was surrounded by a few good-tempered fellows, who lingered about the spot in which the "humours of Bartlemy fair" used to abound, and a few minutes after the ceremony the place was again deserted.

A *Museum of Practical and Ornamental Art*, formed under the auspices of the Board of Trade, and now permanently arranged in a suite of rooms at Marlborough House, was opened to the public on the 6th inst., and will continue open on Mondays and Tuesdays to all persons not students, but on these days nothing can be removed from its case. On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, persons, not students, are admitted on payment of sixpence, and any single example may be copied on payment of another sixpence. On Saturdays the museum is closed. The chief object which will attract attention is the collection of fictile vases. To this collection her Majesty has contributed her unrivalled cabinet of Sèvres china, estimated to be worth 12,000*l.*, though consisting of only forty-five pieces. Imitating the Queen's example, Messrs. Webb, Minton, Farrar, T. Baring, M.P., and Copeland, have sent similar collections and specimens of Sèvres, Indian pottery, and British pottery, the whole representing a value of 17,000*l.* The manufacturer and artist can here study ancient wonders and modern imitation's competitions with effect. The other branches of the museum at present classified are woven goods, metal works, glass, furniture, and the comprehensive miscellaneous. It will be recollected that a Treasury grant apportioned 5000*l.* to a committee of the Board of Trade to purchase suitable objects for this museum's purpose out of the Great Exhibition; and, judging by the display, the money seems to have been judiciously spent. In addition, there are articles, models, &c., which were bought for the School of Design, and which have been removed from Somerset House; and the presents from those who take an interest in this first step in a right direction are numerous. The collection of casts appertaining to the *renaissance* school of ornament is very interesting; and a chronological arrangement of the specimens greatly facilitates the inspection.

A meeting of the society for the establishment of *Evening Classes for Young Men* was held on the 6th inst., at Crosby Hall, to receive the fourth annual report; the Lord Mayor presided, and many clergymen and gentlemen of the City were present. The Rev. C. Mackenzie, the honorary secretary, read the report of the committee, which urged the want of increased support from the public, and also the necessity of greater co-operation among young men. The last year's receipts were 450*l.*, and twenty guineas more than that amount had been spent for the purposes of the institution, which could but prove of essential value from the advantages afforded to young persons who had received but limited education in their youth, and increased their value both to their employers and society generally. There had been eighty-four classes during the year, in fourteen different parts of the metropolis, which had been attended with varied success. These classes gave instruction in drawing, elocution, French, German,

Italian, and vocal music. Of the various districts, that of Crosby-place had received the preference in numbers, which was in consequence of a library being attached to it; an attraction which other rooms did not possess. The deficiencies of the last year, it was expected, would be amply made up in the year ensuing, and the committee invited the public to aid them, observing, that had there been greater numbers of members the society would have been rendered self-supporting. One member had kindly lent 2000 volumes to the institution. A council of examiners had been appointed, who reported their results as very satisfactory, and creditable to the pupils. The report impressed upon the meeting the fact that the society was not one of sect or party, and that questions of a religious and political nature were altogether excluded. It was honoured with the patronage of Prince Albert, the Earl of Carlisle, the Bishop of London, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and numerous other members of the nobility. At the conclusion of the report, the Rev. J. Brown proposed a resolution, as follows:—"That the meeting regards with interest the continued success of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men; and it is impressed with the propriety of the committee extending its efforts, so as more and more to impart the benefit of education to the young men of the metropolis." The Rev. H. Mackenzie seconded the resolution, and it was carried by acclamation.

Pauperism in Cuckfield Union, in the county of Sussex, has decreased to that extent that it is in serious contemplation to let the seven acres of land connected with the workhouse, in consequence of there not having been for some time past sufficient inmates to cultivate it properly. Nor is the diminution confined to able-bodied male paupers; within the last few weeks there have been upwards of twenty applications to the master of the union for female servants, not one of which could be complied with.

The annual meeting of the *East Suffolk Agricultural Society* was held at Framlingham on the 24th. The show surpassed in number and excellence those of former years. After the show-yard was closed, about 250 members and friends of the association sat down to dinner, presided over by the Earl of Stradbroke. After dinner, the chairman having proposed the usual routine toasts, gave the health of Sir Edward Gooch and Sir Fitzroy Kelly, members for the division. The solicitor-general, though a Protectionist, gave the farmers sound advice: "It is to yourselves," he said, "that you must now chiefly look. It is true that you may not in vain place great reliance upon the efforts which will be made in your behalf by the ministers of the crown, and by the legislature of the country: but it is to your own efforts—to efforts like those which you have made, which you have proved in this very place this day—that you must mainly look for that relief, for that return to prosperity to which you are in justice entitled."

Great efforts are being made at present to promote the *Education of the Working Classes in Wales*, and much good is done by the numerous schools which are being established throughout the principality. In North Wales new schools are being erected in the mining and slate districts; while care is taken to make those already established as effective as possible. In the very heart of the hills of Merioneth, with a thin and widely-scattered people, a school has been established which is carried on with remarkable vigour, but in the more northern counties, and particularly the level one of Anglesea, great good is effected, as there the schools can be established in less hilly and isolated spots, where the physical impediments are not so formidable, and the populace more numerous. The Training Institution at Carnarvon is in a state of great efficiency; the trained masters sent out into the dioceses of Bangor and St. Asaph having under their care many thousands of children. Energetic efforts are likewise being made to secure to South Wales the blessings of an enlarged education.

Sir James Graham has taken a step in *Relaxing the severity of the Game Laws*. He has issued the following circular to the tenantry on the Netherby estate. "Sir James Graham, unsolicited, has pleasure in notifying to his tenantry that they have his permission to hunt and

kill hares and rabbits on their several and respective farms, between the hours of sunrise and sunset—the time for killing hares being limited to the usual period, from 27th September to 27th February. Neither guns nor snares to be used. This permission will be continued from the present date until further notice. During its continuance Sir James Graham confidently expects and trusts that such a concession on his part will induce all his tenants, by themselves and their servants, to preserve the winged game on their respective farms to the utmost of their power, for the amusement of himself, his family, and friends. He hopes that they will cordially co-operate with him in putting down the baneful practice of poaching; and would suggest that every tenant, acting up to the spirit of the obligation contained in his agreement, should, when engaging his servants, make it a condition that any unfaithfulness discovered on their part, in respect to the preservation of game, will be considered sufficient ground for immediate dismissal."

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen, Prince Albert, and the Royal Family are residing at Balmoral, where they arrived on the 1st inst. Her Majesty's progress was attended by the usual rejoicings and demonstrations of loyalty. The Queen has been active in her excursions among the highland scenery of the neighbourhood; and the Prince in deer-stalking and other sports of the field. The Queen attended a torch-light ball on the 10th, where all the Highlandmen of the Duff and Farquharson clans were present. This ball was given at Corriemulzie Cottage, the seat of Mr. Duff, M.P. At the principal entrance a handsome triumphal arch was erected, composed of ferns, heather, and pine branches, and festooned with clusters of the mountain-ash berries. Highlanders were stationed on either side with torches. The Queen visited her "cottars" on the 13th, and dispensed clothing for the winter season, which had already set in. A new palace is to be built for the Queen at Balmoral. The site selected is between the river and the present castle, fronting south; and the estimated cost is between 80,000*l.* and 100,000*l.* A new bridge is to be thrown over the Dee; the old road through the forest of Balloch Bluaie is to be shut up, and a new one made along the southern bank of the river.

A noble bronze *Statue of Sir Robert Peel*, sculptured by Mr. Baily, has been erected in the market-place of Bury, his native town. It was "inaugurated" on the 8th inst. Mr. Frederick Peel, member for the borough, Dr. Peel, Dean of Worcester, and Mr. Lawrence Peel, the son and brothers of the great Minister, were among the guests. They met on the lawn of a house called Chamber Hall where Sir Robert was born; and thence, accompanied by a large and well-ordered procession, they went to the market-place. An enormous crowd, probably 20,000, witnessed and ratified the ceremony. The figure is ten feet high, and represents the statesman in his usual attitude when addressing the House. On one side of the pedestal the single word "Peel" is deeply cut; opposite the sentence so often quoted from his famous speech on leaving office in 1846. After the ceremony, there was a banquet, followed by oratory in the Town-hall. The principal speakers were Mr. E. Grundy, Mr. F. Peel, Mr. T. Bazley, Dr. Peel, and Mr. W. Brown.

Lieutenant-General Viscount Hardinge has been appointed, *ad interim*, to the command of the army vacant by the death of the Duke of Wellington.

B. von Humboldt celebrated his eighty-third birth-day at Berlin, on the 14th, by giving a feast to his friends and admirers. The "*Nestor of Science*" is in excellent health, and is engaged daily for some hours on a fourth volume of the "*Cosmos*."

Great efforts are making to obtain subscriptions to the *Newman Defence Fund*. On Sunday evening the 12th inst. a meeting of the co-religionists of Dr. Newman took place at the Roman Catholic school-rooms in Smeeth town. The chair was occupied by the Very Rev. Canon Rolfe, who stated that the object for which they were called together was to devise some plan that should give their poorer brethren an opportunity of

contributing to the fund required to defray the expenses into which Dr. Newman had been forced in the Aehill trial, expenses which he would state, on good authority, amounted already to more than 10,000*l.*, and which they had every reason to believe would be still further increased in the forthcoming term. Dr. Newman had already received notice that he would be called upon to appear and receive judgment; and it had been intimated in tolerably plain terms that he ought to hold himself in readiness to pass some time in one of the Queen's prisons. The fund had already received some princely donations, such as 1000*l.* from Cardinal Wiseman, several of 500*l.*, and a long list of hundreds; but notwithstanding these donations, he could not forget that the pence of the working-classes had often accomplished more than the pounds of the rich, and he hoped that such would be the case on this particular occasion. Resolutions in conformity with the object of the meeting were then passed. A similar meeting has been held at Limerick, and the bishop and clergy present subscribed among themselves nearly 40*l.*—The Archbishop of Cambrai, at the close of his diocesan synod, announced to the clergy that he had received a letter from Cardinal Wiseman, stating that the Catholics of England were unable to raise the funds necessary to pay the expenses incurred by Dr. Newman in the affair of Dr. Aehill, and accordingly soliciting relief from their brethren of the Continent. In consequence, the Archbishop intimated that he would be happy to receive offerings from the clergy and the faithful, and he himself gave 200*l.* The subscription opened for the same purpose by the 'Univers' amounts to between 700*l.* and 800*l.*

The King of the Belgians has conferred the order of Leopold with the civil decoration upon Sir H. de la Beche, of the Geological Survey Office of London, as a public testimony of his Majesty's esteem and satisfaction for the eminent services rendered by him to geology by his numerous and valuable publications.

The historian Ranke is now in Brussels, consulting the archives of the State for facts relative to French history in the seventeenth century.

A monument to *Titian* was inaugurated at Venice on the 17th August by the authorities. The great painter is represented surrounded by the Fine Arts; below him are images of the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries; while the basement is adorned with bas-reliefs of five of the artist's most famous pictures.

Mr. G. P. R. James, the novelist, has been appointed Consul at Norfolk in the United States.

Mr. John Stuart, Q.C., has been appointed to the Vice-Chancellorship, vacant by the death of Sir James Parker.

Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, at Modena, presented his credentials on the 18th August, as Envoy Extraordinary from Great Britain. He likewise presented a private letter from Queen Victoria to her Royal Highness the Duchess.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON died at Walmer Castle on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 11th inst. The event was somewhat sudden, as nothing had occurred in the usual state of his Grace's health to cause serious uneasiness. Preserving to the last those temperate habits and that activity for which he was so distinguished, on Monday he took his customary walk in the grounds attached to the Castle, inspected the stables, and gave directions with reference to a journey to Dover on the following day, where Lady Westmoreland was expected to arrive on a visit to Walmer. In other respects, the Duke's appetite had been observed to be keener than usual; and it was remarked that he looked pale while attending divine service on Sunday; but otherwise nothing had occurred to attract notice or to create uneasiness, and after dining heartily in evening, he retired to rest on Monday night, apparently quite well. Lord and Lady Charles Wellesley were the only visitors at the Castle. Early on Tuesday morning, when his valet came to awake him, his Grace refused to get up, and desired that the "apothecary" should be sent for immediately. A note was accordingly despatched to Mr. W. Hulke, surgeon at Deal, who has been attached to the family for many years. Mr. Hulke hastened to the Castle, where he arrived at about nine o'clock. He found the Duke, to all appearance, suffering from indigestion, and complaining of pains in the chest and stomach. He was in the full possession of his faculties, and described his ailment very clearly. So slight were the

symptoms, that Mr. Hulke confined himself to prescribing some dry toast and tea. Mr. Hulke on leaving called upon Dr. McArthur, a physician residing in Deal, and told him what he had done, which the latter approved of. Neither of the medical gentlemen appear to have been present when the fatal attack commenced—an attack to which the Duke's constitution had for years been liable, and which, a year and a half ago, had been conquered by their successful treatment. His Grace, when seized, lost the power of speech and of consciousness. On the arrival of the medical attendants, emetics were administered, which, however, produced no effect. Every effort was used to afford relief, but in vain. His Grace was removed from bed into an arm-chair, where it was thought he would be more at ease; and the attendants of his dying moments stood in a group around him, watching the last efforts of expiring nature. On one side were Lord Charles Wellesley and Dr. McArthur, on the other Mr. Hulke and the valet. As the time passed on and no sign of relief was visible, telegraphic messages were despatched, first for Dr. Hume, and then for Dr. Ferguson; who, however, were unfortunately both out of town. Finally, Dr. Williams was sent for; but he did not arrive at the Castle till eleven o'clock at night, when all earthly aid was useless. The Duke's state gradually became more perilous; and he suffered a third attack, still more severe than the preceding ones. When the members of his family and his medical attendants spoke to him, he appeared to be conscious that they were addressing him, and attempted to articulate a reply. His answers, however, were not distinct enough to be intelligible; and, indeed, not a syllable that he uttered from the moment when he ordered his apothecary to be sent for could be understood. About three o'clock he had a fourth and final attack, of redoubled intensity, which rendered him perfectly insensible; and Mr. Hulke could only ascertain by the continued action of the pulse the existence of life. He felt it from time to time till about a quarter-past three, when he found that it had ceased to beat, and declared that all was over. Dr. McArthur tried the other arm, and confirmed the fact; but Lord Charles Wellesley expressed his belief that the Duke still breathed, and a mirror was held to his mouth by the valet. The polished surface, however, remained undimmed; the great commander had departed without a struggle, or even a sigh to mark the exact moment when the vital spark was extinguished. Immediately after the mournful event, telegraphic despatches were sent off to the Marquis and Marchioness of Douro, who were believed to be staying at Frankfort. A despatch was also forwarded to the Queen in Scotland, and to the prime minister. Expresses were likewise forwarded to Lord Fitzroy Somerset, his Grace's military secretary, to whom the latest official letters which he had written were addressed, and to Mr. Parkinson, his solicitor. In the afternoon, not long after the Duke's death, his niece, the Countess of Westmoreland, arrived with the Earl at Walmer Castle. It is now a somewhat melancholy fact, that the Duke had arranged to meet them on the platform of the Dover terminus, in order that he might have an opportunity of seeing them before they proceeded to Vienna. After staying some time at Walmer the Earl and Countess departed the same evening for Calais. The Marquis of Douro (now Duke of Wellington) was at Baden Baden when the news of his father's death reached him, and hastened to Walmer without an hour's delay. The will of his Grace having been opened, it was found that he had expressed a wish that his mortal remains might be disposed of as the sovereign may direct. It is understood that the Duke's funeral will be public, either in St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey, and on a scale of the utmost magnificence. The tidings of his death have made a profound impression in every part of the country, the whole nation having joined in a deep and heartfelt expression of sorrow for so great a national loss.

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, was the son of Garret, Earl of Mornington, and Anne, daughter of the first Viscount Dungannon. The family name was then Wesley. It is remarkable in the case of so great a man that there is some uncertainty as to the date and place of his birth. It has been generally said that the date was the 1st of May, 1759, and the place Dangan Castle, County of Meath; but it is more probable that he was born in the month of April, and in Dublin. He was educated first at Eton, next at a private school at Brighton, and lastly at the military school at Angers. He then entered the army as Ensign in the 73rd regiment of foot on the 7th of March, 1787. He had risen in the service to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the 33rd, when, in May, 1794, he embarked for the Low Countries to reinforce the army of the Duke of York. He commanded the rear-guard in the Duke's disastrous retreat, and did good service by driving back the pursuing enemy on several occasions. Very soon after his return to England, he was sent with his regiment to the East Indies, where he arrived in February, 1797. His regiment formed a part of General Harris's army, engaged in the war with Tipoo. After the fall of Seringapatam he was made Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mysore. When the Marhatta war broke out, Wellesley, now Major-General, was placed at the head of the English force. The memorable battle of Assaye, fought on the 21st of September, 1797, broke the power of the Marhattas, and put an end to the war. This splendid achievement was productive of honours and rewards. He was created an extra Knight Companion of the Bath, many addresses were presented to him by various public bodies in India, a splendid gold vase, valued at 2,000 guineas, was given to him by the officers of his division of the Indian army, and a sword, worth 1,000*l.*, was presented to him by the inhabitants of Cal-

cutta. Sir Arthur Wellesley returned to England in September, 1805. For three years he was now pretty well occupied as Irish Secretary, Privy Councillor, and Member of Parliament. His next military service was at Copenhagen, where he commanded the troops in the notorious foray of 1807, and conducted the negotiations which resulted in the surrender of the Danish fleet. In 1808, when the patriots in Spain and Portugal rose against the French yoke, the English government resolved to assist them; Sir Arthur Wellesley was sent to Portugal at the head of an armament, and landed in Mondego Bay in the month of August. He was opposed by Junot at the head of a superior force. Several minor encounters led to the battle of Vimeira, in which the French were completely defeated; but Sir Arthur was prevented from following up his victory by the arrival of Sir Harry Burrard, by whom he had been superseded. Sir Harry in his turn was superseded by Sir Hew Dalrymple. After receiving from Sir Arthur a brief but clear statement of his operations, Sir Hew gave the order to advance, but it was too late, and the advantages which the victory would have conferred upon our army were thrown away. The treaty of Cintra, which concluded this campaign, excited in England the utmost wonder and disgust. Sir Arthur Wellesley, who had strenuously opposed its principal provisions, in a fit of indignant chagrin had, immediately after its completion, returned home—Sir Hew Dalrymple was recalled, and Sir Harry Burrard resigned on the plea of ill-health; so that the command of the army devolved on Sir John Moore. An inquiry was instituted by command of the king, but the subject was suffered to drop. After the disastrous campaign of Sir John Moore, Sir Arthur Wellesley was sent to co-operate with Beresford, to whom the Portuguese army was intrusted. He arrived in the Tagus in April, 1809, and that series of operations followed which ended in the famous passage of the Douro on the 12th of May, and the defeat of Soult with the loss of his cannon and baggage. Then came the drawn battle of Talavera, on the 28th of July; Sir Arthur Wellesley became Baron Douro and Viscount Wellington. But the Spanish generals were ignorant, vacillating, and obstinate; Wellington could not get them to act with him; neither could he rely on their movements if he endeavored to act with them. Napoleon now literally occupied Spain with great armies. There were nearly three hundred thousand men in the field, commanded by Ney, Suchet, Massena, Soult, Mortier, Victor, and a host of inferior but able officers. Against these, when he opened the campaign of 1810, Wellington had nominally about one hundred and twenty thousand; of whom, however, not more than thirty thousand were British soldiers. Followed by Massena, Wellington first fought and won the battle of Bussaco; then took refuge behind the strong intrenchments known as the lines of Torres Vedras; and remained there in perfect security. Massena waited a month before these lines, and then retired with Wellington at his heels. Massena was beaten at Fuentes d'Onor; Almeida fell; Ciudad Rodrigo was captured in ten days, in January, 1812; in April Badajoz was stormed; the army of Marmont was routed at Salamanca in July; and Wellington entered Madrid in August. The check before Burgos, in September, caused him to retreat to his former position on the Agueda, as the French marshals were closing round him. During the winter-months he obtained the sole command of the Spanish as well as British forces; and thus he opened the campaign of 1813 with improved prospects of success. He had good reason for his anticipations of victory. By an unexpected movement he got in the rear of the French defences; a retreat was inevitable; at Vittoria it became a flight, until the French were folded in the passes of the Pyrenees. Soult was now sent to retrieve the day; but it was too late. Wellington drove him from rock to rock in the Pyrenees; and on the 9th of November, 1813, slept for the last time on Spanish ground. How he crossed the Bidassoa, and the Nivelle—how Soult arrested his advance for a moment at Toulouse—and how Napoleon finally succumbed—are sufficiently well known. When the war was over, Wellington was employed as British Minister at Paris, royal adviser at Madrid, and Plenipotentiary at Vienna. When he returned to England, and took his place for the first time in the House of Lords, all the patents of his dignities were read in one day; Talavera had made him a baron and viscount, Ciudad Rodrigo an earl, Salamanca a marquis, and Vittoria a duke; while honours and orders were heaped upon him by all the kings of Christendom. The rest of the military life of Wellington is familiarly known. Napoleon escaped from Elba in 1815; he reigned one hundred days, and Waterloo closed his career. Wellington was richly rewarded for his splendid services; foreign potentates had bowed upon him rank, orders, presents, honours; he was at once a field-marshal in the British, Austrian, Russian, and Prussian armies. He was appointed Generalissimo of the Allied Forces occupying France in 1815; and the term of his command was originally set down for five years. Strathfieldsaye was purchased at the national cost; and the grand ceremony of opening Waterloo Bridge, when the Prince Regent rode with the Duke of York on his right and the Duke of Wellington on his left hand, and when 202 guns were fired in honour of the day, had been performed on the anniversary of Waterloo. War being finally terminated, Wellington entered upon a new career as a diplomatist and a statesman. At every great meeting of the Powers he was the leading representative of England—at Vienna in 1815, at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1818, at Verona in 1822; and his solid sense and sagacious judgment served to mitigate

the coercive tendencies of his royal colleagues. By his advice, France was evacuated in 1818; and thus by his own act he threw up his lucrative and powerful post as generalissimo. At Verona, in obedience to the instructions of Mr. Canning, who had become Minister for Foreign Affairs on the death of Lord Londonderry, he remonstrated against the French expedition to put down the constitutional party in Spain. During Lord Liverpool's administration he had a seat in the cabinet, and took a share in the unpopular measures of the time. When Lord Liverpool died, in 1827, and Canning was called on to form a cabinet, the Duke, Peel, and others, resigned; and in a few months Canning died. The cabinet of Lord Gough followed, existing precariously for a few months; and then the Duke of Wellington was made Prime Minister of England; but his cabinet was not destined to survive long. Before breaking up, however, the Duke of Wellington, yielding to his good sense and perception of what the time demanded, accepted Lord John Russell's bill for the Repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, and triumphantly carried it through the House of Peers; and then, with the aid of Peel, accomplished, in 1829, the great measure of Catholic Emancipation. He remained, nevertheless, an enemy to Parliamentary Reform. In the new parliament, on the accession of William IV., he delivered his memorable declaration, "that the country already possessed a legislature which answered all the good purposes of legislation; that the system of representation possessed the full and entire confidence of the country; and that he was not only not prepared to bring forward any measure of reform, but would resist such as long as he held any station in the government of the country." These few words decided the destinies of the government and the country too. The government was dissolved, and the Reform Act was passed after a long and stormy opposition. In 1834, when the Whigs were dismissed at the death of Earl Spencer, and a messenger was sent to Rome for Sir Robert Peel, the Duke held for a while eight of the state portfolios, and was sole minister *ad interim*. After this he disappeared from official political life, although not from the arena of the House of Lords. When Peel returned to power in 1841, the Duke was with him. When Peel resigned on the Corn-law question, and Lord John Russell could not form a cabinet, the Duke came forward to "stand by" Peel, and to assist in carrying on the Queen's government by carrying out Corn-law repeal. With the Peel ministry of 1846 the Duke's political career came to an end; though, to the honour of all parties, he retained the office of Commander-in-Chief. His last speech in the House of Peers was made at the second reading of the Militia Bill, on the 16th of June last, when he gave his support to that measure.

The following letter, written by the Earl of Derby at the command of her Majesty and addressed to the Home Secretary, has excited great public interest:

"Balmoral, Sept. 20, 1852.

"SIR,—Her Majesty received with the deepest grief, on Thursday last, the afflicting intelligence of the sudden death of his Grace the late Duke of Wellington.

"Although the Queen could not for a moment doubt that the voice of the country would be unanimous upon the subject of the honours to be paid to the memory of the greatest men of the age, her Majesty considered it due to the feelings of his Grace's surviving relations that no step should be taken, even in his honour, without their previous concurrence; and, accordingly, the same evening, in obedience to her Majesty's commands, I wrote to Lord Charles Wellesley (the present Duke having not then returned to England) to ascertain whether the late Duke had left any directions, or whether his family desired to express any wish upon the subject, and suggesting the course which appeared to her Majesty best calculated to give expression to those feelings in which the nation, as one man, will sympathise with her Majesty.

"Having this day received letters from the present Duke and his brother, to the effect that the late Duke had left no directions on the subject, and placing themselves wholly in her Majesty's hands, I hasten to relieve the public anxiety by signifying to you for public information the commands which I have received from her Majesty.

"The great space which the name of the Duke of Wellington has filled in the history of the last fifty years, his brilliant achievements in the field, his high mental qualities, his long and faithful services to the Crown, his untiring devotion to the interests of his country, constitute claims upon the gratitude of the nation which a public funeral, though it cannot satisfy, at least may serve to recognise.

"Her Majesty is well aware that, as in the case of Lord Nelson, she might of her own authority have given immediate orders for this public mark of veneration for the memory of the illustrious Duke, and has no doubt but that parliament and the country would cordially have approved the step. But her Majesty, anxious that this tribute of gratitude and sorrow should be deprived of nothing which could invest it with a possible number of her subjects should have an opportunity of joining it—is anxious, above all, that such honours should not appear to emanate from the Crown alone, and that the two Houses of Parliament should have an opportunity, by their previous sanction, of stamping the proposed ceremony with increased solemnity, and of associating themselves with her Majesty in paying honour to the memory of one whom no Englishman can name without pride and sorrow.

"The body of the Duke of Wellington will therefore remain, with the concurrence of his family, under proper guardianship, until the Queen shall have received the formal approval of parliament of the course which it will be the duty of her Majesty's servants to submit to both houses upon their re-assembling.

"As soon as possible after that approval shall have been obtained, it is her Majesty's wish, should no unforeseen impediment arise, that the mortal remains of the late illustrious and venerated Commander-in-Chief should, at the public expense, and with all the solemnity due to the greatness of the occasion, be deposited in the cathedral church of St. Paul's, there to rest by the side of Nelson—the greatest Military by the side of the greatest Naval chief who ever reflected lustre upon the annals of England.

"I have the honour to be,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"DERBY.

"Right Hon. S. H. Walpole, M.P."

THE EARL OF FALMOUTH died on the 29th of August, at his residence in St. James's Square, in his 44th year.

JOSEPH ADY, the notorious writer of letters informing people of "something to their advantage," died lately at the age of 83.

MR. R. G. PORTER, of the Board of Trade, died at Tunbridge Wells, on the 3rd ult.

DR. MACGILLIVRAY, Professor of Natural History in Mariscal College, Aberdeen, died on the 5th inst.

MR. ISAAC WILSON, of Bath, a man of well-known mechanical genius, died in that city on the 30th ult.

MR. JOHN CAMDEN NEILD, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-law,

has died at the age of 72, leaving his whole fortune, of about half a million sterling, to the Queen. He was of very eccentric and penurious habits. At the death of his father, thirty years since, he came into possession of about 250,000*l.*, which had not been touched up to the period of his death. He was never known to wear a great coat. He usually dressed in a blue coat, with metal buttons, which he prohibited being brushed, as it would take off the nap and deteriorate its value. He held considerable landed property in Kent and in Bucks, and was always happy to receive an invitation from his tenantry to visit them; which he occasionally did, often remaining a month at a time, and he was thus enabled to add to his savings. His appearance and manners led strangers to imagine that he was on the lowest verge of penury, and their compassion was excited in his behalf, of which many instances might be related. A few days before his death the deceased told one of his executors that he had made a most singular will, but as the property was his own he had done as he pleased with it. The executors are the Keeper of the Privy Purse for the time being (Dr. Tattan), and Mr. J. Stevens, of Willesborough. After bequeathing a few very trifling legacies, the deceased left the whole of his immense fortune to "Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria; begging her Majesty's most gracious acceptance of the same, for her sole use and benefit, and of her heirs," &c. The property is estimated at upwards of 500,000*l.* For some years past Mr. Neild has scarcely allowed himself the common necessities and comforts of life; and he has left a poor old housekeeper, who was with him for more than twenty-six years, without the smallest provision or acknowledgment for her protracted and far from agreeable or remunerative services.

MR. WELBY POGIN, the eminent architect, died at Ramsgate on the 14th ult.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THERE is intelligence from *Rangoon* to the 31st of July. The troops continued in good health. The *Proserpine* had made her way up the Irrawaddy nearly to Prome, and had performed signal service in intercepting large boats of rice intended as supplies for the Burmese army assembling round Prome. The rest of the news is speculative. General Godwin, it is said, demanded 12,000 more troops before he would undertake to march on Prome; and Lord Dalhousie, anxious to judge for himself, was about to proceed to Rangoon. The cost of the war, up to the 1st of July, was estimated at 500,000*l.* From the north-western frontier the intelligence has some interest. In consequence of repeated differences between Sir Colin Campbell and the Military Board, Sir Colin had resigned the Peshawar command. He appears to have thought the force at his disposal too small for effectually carrying out the wishes of the Board, who desired that he should march on Lallpoora. The latest news from that quarter would seem to indicate that diplomacy had precluded further war. According to the *Mofussilite* of the 16th July, it is proposed to surrender the territory to the Momunds, for which they have been fighting, on condition of their paying tribute for it.

India proper is in a state of profound tranquillity. The almost unexampled quantity of rain that has fallen has brought the indigo season to a disastrous close, and the crops upon which the natives are dependent for support are also said to be alarmingly damaged or destroyed.

Madras was visited on the 16th of July with the most destructive fire that has ever been known there. It occurred in the immense house in Poplam's Broad Way, occupied by the firm of Messrs. Oakes, Portridge, and Co., whose extensive warehouses, with everything they contained, have been totally destroyed.

The intelligence from the *West Indies* reaches the end of August. In Jamaica complaints are still made of commercial distress, but the proprietors seem to have abandoned all hopes of a restoration of prosperity through protection. Thus the Colonial Standard complains:—"Not a single parish except Kingston, as far as we are informed, has come forward to respond to the appeal made to them by the committee appointed at the meeting of the 20th of last month, to endeavour to procure further contributions, in order to enable our delegates to remain in England to meet the new parliament,

and act in concert with delegates who might be sent from other colonies." The Standard suggests that one of the causes of this apathy may be that people think the exertions of the delegates will produce no result. Two English brigs had arrived at Jamaica to load with emigrants for Australia. Two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt in Kingston on the 20th ult.; but without injury to property or human life. The small-pox was reported to have considerably abated in Spanish Town. A dubious case of cholera had occasioned much alarm. There had been a few days' heavy rain.

In *Barbadoes* dry weather and scorching heat had partially destroyed the ground-crops, upon which the labouring population principally depend for subsistence. Native provisions were becoming scarce, and dear. Prayers for rain had been read in the churches. Some cases of yellow fever are said to have occurred.

In *St. Christopher* an improvement in the weather had given a fair prospect that the crop for the ensuing season would turn out well. The cane fields were assuming a healthy appearance. The crop for the past season had been all gathered in, and amounted to 6000 hogsheads, most of which had been shipped.

In *St. Lucia* the heat had been intense, notwithstanding occasional showers of rain seemed to refresh the atmosphere. The health of the island had assumed a very unfavourable change during the last few weeks before the sailing of the packet. Cold, diarrhoea, and fever were to be found in almost every house. The fever, at first of a mild type, had assumed a most malignant character during the last fortnight, and had dealt awful mortality amongst the shipping, taking off, in the course of ten days, the master and three men of one vessel, and the second mate and one man of another. The troops in the garrison, however, were quite healthy.

There are accounts from the *Cape of Good Hope* to the 3rd of August. At the seat of war, matters had continued in much the same state. There are accounts of cattle-seizures, successful and frustrated, small engagements with the Hottentots by partisans, and a general intimation in the journals that a large belt of frontier was still infested with predatory bands. General Cathcart has personally led several expeditions into the Waterkloof; using shot, shell, and rockets, with great effect, and astonishing distant bodies of Caffres by his fire. In one instance the Caffres were strikingly defeated. Colonel Buller, commanding a

large force, accompanied by the 60th Rifles and four guns, marched into the Waterkloof early in the morning of the 24th July. When he came up with the Caffres, he feigned a retreat after an exchange of shots, and thus drew the black warriors under the deadly range of his artillery and riflemen. One hundred Caffres are reported to have fallen. Nevertheless, strong bodies of Caffres and Hottentots still maintain themselves in the fastnesses of the Waterkloof and the Amatolas. General Cathcart had issued a circular addressed to the colonists, and dated the 20th of July—a remarkable document. He reproves the colonists for not giving him more efficient assistance; warning them that “this must probably be the last Caffre war carried on at the cost of the British Government;” for “the expenses of another war cannot again be expected to be drawn” from British pockets to support a cause “in which, except from motives of sympathy and benevolence, it has no real interest.” General Cathcart further states, that the objects of the Trans-Kei expedition are to test the willingness of the colonists to help themselves; and to show the Caffres that there is force enough in the colony to beat them. If he is ill-supported, he has sufficient troops under him to go on and vindicate the national honour; yet, until he proves lukewarmness by experience, he refuses to believe that the Burghers will not rally to his war-cry. He concludes thus:—

“When I return from my expedition beyond the Kei, I must make up my report to her Majesty’s government, not only as to the result of that expedition, but as to whether I have found the people of this colony grateful for the support which has been afforded them, and willing and able to exert themselves in their own cause, and therefore deserving or the contrary, as the case may be, and whether therefore I consider their cause worth fighting for or not. In the latter event, I should probably be ordered to withdraw my army; and my parting advice to the colonists of the Eastern half of this colony, at least, could only be—keep fewer sheep and oxen, and provide yourselves with more shepherds and herdsmen; for wild men and wild beasts will soon again recover their ancient sovereignty in the Fish River and Zuurburg *et ultra*; and you will be unable to drive them out, as your fathers did in the olden time.”

This circular was followed up by another, from Lieutenant-Governor Darling, on the 2nd of August, warmly exhorting the colonists to send men, money, and provisions, to join the expeditionary army. In the border towns, efforts were made to raise respectable contingents; and considerable items of money subscribed are reported. But there is no evidence to show that either volunteers or money were plentiful.

The accounts from Quebec mention the *Meeting of the Canadian Parliament* and the speech of the Governor General. His Excellency states that the country is in a state of prosperity; and that it has rapidly advanced in population and wealth; and that provincial securities have risen in value. Some important reforms are promised, and prominent among these are an increase of the representation and a mode for registering votes. A decimal system of currency is proposed, as well as the establishment of agricultural bureaux. Reform of the seigniorial tenure is promised. To all of these proposed reforms no serious exception has been taken on the part of the opposition. With respect to the clergy reserves there is a good deal of irritation existing on the part of the reformers, in consequence of the decision of Sir J. S. Pakington against the repeal of the Imperial Clergy Reserve Act of 1840; while the conservatives, on the other hand, are of course very glad at Sir John’s decision. The Imperial Act takes away from the Canadian legislature the power to legislate upon the clergy reserves, and this power the reformers now demand. The Canadian ministry have expressed themselves strongly upon this point, and some of them have even gone to the length of declaring that they would insist upon the right to legislate upon the reserves, even although that should bring them into collision with England.

The intelligence from *Nova Scotia* is important. The alleged settlement of the Fishery question upon the basis of reciprocity has given no satisfaction to the people of the colony. Memorials to the Queen and

the Lieutenant-Governor have been drawn up, based on resolutions agreed to at a public meeting held at Halifax on the 2nd September. The memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor, after reciting the restrictive provisions of the treaty of 1818, and pointing out the obvious consequence that if the restrictions be removed it will be impossible to prevent the Americans from using the Colonial fishing-grounds as freely as the colonists themselves, proceeds—

“They will be permitted to enter our bays and harbours where, at all times, unless armed vessels are present in every harbour, they will not only fish in common with our own fishermen, but they will bring with them contraband goods to exchange with the inhabitants for fish, to the great injury of Colonial traders and loss to the public revenue. The fish obtained by this illicit traffic will then be taken to the United States, where they will be entered as the produce of the American fisheries, while those exported from the Colonies in a legal manner are subject to oppressive duties. We need not remind your Excellency, that the equivalent said to have been proposed—that of allowing our vessels to fish in the waters of the United States—is utterly valueless and unworthy of a moment’s consideration. We would fondly hope that the reports which have appeared in the public press respecting the pending negotiations between the two governments are without any good foundation. We cannot imagine that her Majesty’s government, after having taken prompt and decided measures to enforce the true construction of the treaty, will ever consent to such a modification of its terms as will render our highly valued rights a mere privilege to be enjoyed in common with foreigners.”

The memorial to the Queen is couched in stronger language, and partakes more of the character of a remonstrance. They stigmatise the rumoured settlement of the question, as being to them “a transfer alike injurious and humiliating.” They recite the claim to the three-mile line upon the ground of international right, and upon the explicit stipulations of the treaty. And they ask—

“Shall nations be absolved from the obligation of their contracts, and complaints be respected when made by a people, which between individuals would be treated as puerile?”

“If conciliation, irrespective of right, be the principle on which is to be withdrawn the restriction against the entry of Americans into the bays and indentations of the coast to fish, limiting them alone to the distance of three miles from the shore, the concession of the privilege to fish within this latter distance must equally be granted,—as, indeed, has been already urged in the American Congress: the restriction in both cases rests on the same authority; and the concession in each would be demanded by the same principle. It may not be the province of your Majesty’s Colonial subjects to suggest how far such a principle is consistent with national honour and independence; they have a right to pray that it be not carried out at their expense.

“When the welfare of the empire is supposed to demand extensive alterations in the laws of trade and navigation, the peculiar interests of the Colonies are not permitted to disturb the general system by the continuance of conflicting regulations, however necessary from long usage, and the competition of foreigners, more powerful and more fostered by their own governments. In the present case, the possession to be surrendered is no offspring of artificial arrangements, falling with a complicated policy of which it formed a part.

“No, may it please your Majesty, your loyal subjects in Nova Scotia raise their voice against the injury of an inheritance conferred upon your North American subjects by nature—connected with their soil by the laws and usages of nations—confirmed to them by solemn compact; and which, practically enjoyed by them peculiarly, and as your other Majesty’s subjects cannot enjoy them, can be surrendered only at their extreme injury and great loss.

“Surely, may it please your Majesty, your loyal Colonial subjects have a right to ask for some better reason for this sacrifice of their peculiar right and interest than the demand of a foreign power—the aggrandisement of a foreign people.”

They reject the “proffered boon” of the American fisheries, as valueless to the colonists—as a boon they do not want. They pray that they may not be treated “as children, as imbeciles,” by the grant of a worthless privilege. They “deprecate all negotiation—all compromise on the subject;” and declare that “the only security for the Colonies is the entire abandonment of the present negotiations.” They most earnestly entreat her Majesty, “that the existing fishery-restrictions may be preserved in their letter, and that her Majesty’s power may be put forth to prevent their violation.”

The accounts from the *Ionian Islands* mention a *Meeting in the 30th and 41st Regiments*, the one stationed at Cephalonia, and the other at Zante. The

men, it appears, had been infected by the gold fever, and a sort of plot had been formed among the men to strike their officers, with the express purpose of being transported for a term of years, and thus obtaining their discharge from the service, and a free passage to Australia. No less than eight of these cases occurred in one month, and the men were brought to Corfu to be tried by garrison court-martial. All the men were found guilty, and of course, according to military law, condemned to death. Seven, however, were left off with transportation, but the general in command, General Conyers, ordered the sentence of death to be executed in one case, and accordingly the prisoner was shot in the fort of Vido. A company from each regiment attended. The man marched on to the ground, following his coffin, and the chaplain reading the burial service. Twelve men were told off from the 49th regiment, and they had to select a musket each from a stack of twelve, ten of which only were loaded with ball, so that no man could be certain if he were the executioner. The sentence of the court-martial was read over to the man. He then knelt down only eight paces in front of his twelve comrades, threw open his jacket, the words "ready, present, fire," were given, and he fell dead, with one ball through his head and others in the chest. Much interest had been exerted for him, as, although only a private, his father is a captain in the army, and many petitions were sent to the general, but he returned them all with a simple notation "mistaken humanity."

The accounts from the *Australian Gold Fields* continue very favourable. At Mount Alexander, Ballarat, and other diggings, fresh discoveries are daily made. Among the latest are diggings at the Anaki Hills, about twenty miles from Geelong. On May the 24th, the escort from Mount Alexander brought into Melbourne no less than 31,478 ounces of gold, the result of a week's diggings. This exceeds by some 8000 ounces any weekly quantity received yet. A railway from Mount Alexander to Melbourne was about to be constructed. Immigration proceeded at a most astounding ratio; hundreds were arriving daily by vessels from the sister colonies—California, and elsewhere—every ship being literally crowded with passengers eager to labour at the diggings. The total quantity of gold exported from Port Phillip or Victoria, up to May the 22nd, was 32 tons 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 19 lbs. 8 ozs.; value, at 60s. per ounce, 2,225,908*l*.

The news from Sydney of the out-turn of the mines was of the most cheerful character. Gold in abundance was being obtained from the bed of the Turon; fifty-eight ounces were taken by one gentleman in a day; and a private letter notices that two others were getting it by shovels-full. Total exported, to May the 13th, 1,429,882*l*.

In Victoria the anti-transportation agitation is very great, and there appears to be but one feeling in the colony on the subject. The Legislative Council of Victoria has reiterated the desire of the colonists that convict importation shall cease. The petition agreed to at a monster meeting held at Melbourne on April 2nd was couched in the most determined language, going so far as to declare that should the imperial government persist in forcing convicts on the new colony through Van Diemen's Land it must inevitably drive them to seek refuge from such heartless tyranny and oppression in national independence. The accounts from Van Diemen's Land also notice the unabated feeling of the free colonists against the continuance of the transportation system.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

A *Plan of Emigration* has been adopted by the Board of Guardians of St. Martin's parish for their able-bodied poor, and sanctioned by the Poor-Law Commissioners; and a vessel has consequently been selected to convey a body of them to Adelaide. On the 7th inst., the intending emigrants were assembled in the schoolroom of the workhouse for the purpose of hearing valedictory addresses from the Chairman of the Board, and from the Rev. H. Mackenzie, the vicar. Mr. Cobbett having taken the chair, observed that he

represented the board of guardians, who had aided in bringing that great event to maturity. He had before him the names of 58 persons who appeared to be willing to emigrate to Australia. It was his duty to ask them to reply solemnly to the question which he was about to put to them, whether they were willing and free agents in this matter, acting upon their own responsibility, or whether they had been influenced at all in taking this step? Several Voices.—"Not at all." "It is our own free act." "We are willing and anxious to emigrate." "We have not been influenced by any person." The Rev. H. Mackenzie then addressed the emigrants on the change in their future lives, giving them earnest and excellent advice respecting their conduct. His address was listened to with the deepest attention; many were affected to tears; and a fine young man, one of their number, returned their thanks and his own with strong and manly feeling. He said:—

"The immense debt of gratitude we feel must remain for ever unacknowledged. The only return we can offer for such unbounded kindness and generosity is that by the adoption of a new course of life, and by sobriety, industry, economy, and perseverance, we hope to attain to that moral rank in society which will be to you, we feel assured, the most satisfactory return for the many favours we have received at your hands. There is not one among us but feels the absolute necessity of a great moral change of conduct, and there are some who, with the blessing of Almighty God, are determined to pursue that course of life which carries its reward not only in the life which now is, but in that which is to come. Snuff me, for and on behalf of myself and brother and sister emigrants, to return our most sincere and grateful acknowledgments for the kindness and sympathy which you have extended to us."

Copies of the Bible and Prayer-book were then handed to each of the Protestants, and offered also to the Roman Catholics. The majority of these accepted the Bible, but declined the Prayer-book. Two or three accepted both, and one only (a woman) declined both. The proceedings concluded with a psalm and the blessing. The guardians afterwards visited the vessel in the docks. She is a fine barque, built entirely of teak, and still classed A 1 at Lloyd's. The accommodation, which is nearly completed, appears to be sufficient, and she is appointed to sail in five days. The emigrants comprise 24 men, 18 women, 13 boys and girls, and 3 infants—in all 58. The tender for conveying them is 15*l*. per adult. Every one is supplied with an ample outfit. A small sum is placed in the hands of the captain to be distributed by way of *honorarium*, and the adults will have 1*l*. and the children 10*s*. each in their pockets on their arrival at the colony.

Mrs. Chisholm is making Ireland the scene of her philanthropic labours. On Sunday the 12th inst. she held a group meeting at the Town Hall, Queenstown, for the purpose of offering some advice to the emigrants about to proceed to Australia by the ship *Peru*. The meeting was densely crowded; many ladies were present, and among the gentlemen were a number of clergymen, both Catholic and Protestant. An address of thanks for her exertions having been presented to her, Mrs. Chisholm read a reply remarkable for its good sense, feeling, and practical character. Among other topics she touched upon the propriety of conduct necessary in female emigrants. A word, she said, is necessary about females. No females lose character sooner than the young and innocent. The more innocent a girl is the sooner may she be led to acts of impropriety. You must be informed of the etiquette necessary to be observed on board ship. It is generally supposed that captains are never married, but are always single men. She wished them to know that captains have wives. Do not go sewing buttons for the bachelors. Let them do their own work. If any of the officers of the ship ask you to do a little needle-work for them, it is not proper to comply, unless the request is made through a committee or some married person. A female should never remain on deck one minute after the married females retire. Your character cannot be preserved if you did. It is one of the duties of a group to look after these things. Mrs. Chisholm also advised the females to exercise judgment in selecting books for reading. As to the young men, they must do everything for themselves at sea. She hoped they were all provided with needles and thread and worsted, for you could not be seen on board with holes in

your stockings. Brothers must remember that their sisters cannot visit them in their cabins, nor will it be proper for brothers to go where their sisters are. Show your respect to your sister by never speaking to her except in a public room in the ship or on deck. By thus acting you will go a great way to protect those young females who have no brothers with them. In the system of grouping, married females, single females, and single young men should be in those groups, feeling a common interest in keeping up the character of the group. Nothing injures emigration so much as loss of character among females in a ship. They were now going to a country where they will make money fast; some had now so much money that they were begging soldiers to take care of it. But the best soldiers they could have were the young girls of their own country. (Hear.) Wives were wanted to look up the gold. She would advise the Irish to adopt the plan which the English had adopted, viz., it was a point of etiquette for those young men who were leaving girls behind them to enter the girl's name for a passage in a subsequent ship, and to pay at least one sovereign as a deposit. For females in England, although attached to young men, do not like the idea of going to Australia for a husband. But by laying down a deposit for her, she thinks she is going to fulfil a promise which is held sacred.—When

the meeting broke up Mrs. Chisholm was loudly and repeatedly cheered by the whole assemblage.

By the Government *Emigration Returns*, it appears that sixty-one ships, having on board 21,907 emigrants, bound for America and Australia, sailed from Liverpool during the month of August. The number sent out in the previous month was 21,385, so that in the last month there has been an increase of 522 emigrants. The number in the corresponding month of last year was 16,714; and of the year previously (1850) 14,296. Those destined for America were chiefly Irish and Germans, the former preponderating; while Scotch formed the majority of persons making their way to the Australian sheep-pastures and gold-diggings, to whichever pursuit their inclinations may lead them when they land upon *terra firma*. These numbers have no reference to the vessels which are being continually despatched by independent firms in Liverpool.

The *Female Emigration Society* continues its beneficent labours. On the 16th inst. the twenty-seventh contingent, of forty female emigrants, embarked in the *Carnatic*, bound for Sydney. They were attended from Hungerford Pier to the ship at Gravesend by the benevolent persons who form the active portion of the society—the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, the Hon. William Cowper and Mrs. Cowper, and others.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE *French President* is making a tour through the southern departments. The accounts of pageants, rejoicings, and loyal demonstrations, officially promulgated, are in the usual style, and entitled to the usual measure of belief. To pave his way to the throne, the President has contrived the getting up of a petition to the senate, purporting to be from "fathers of families," and *praying for the empire*. This document begins by premising that in France all interests are under the truly sovereign influence of the person who is the chief of the state; and that who shall be chief ought not to be periodically questioned. Then follow these paragraphs:—

"Considering that a father of a family, under a presidency of ten, fifteen, or twenty years, cannot possibly know under what political conjunctures he will provide for the marriage of his son or the daughter that just now he fondles on his knee;

"Considering, consequently, that a presidency of ten, fifteen, or twenty years, cannot possibly altogether and justly satisfy the loftiest and sweetest sentiments of paternal and conjugal love;

"And that, were it otherwise, the births ought in a very peculiar manner to correspond to the peculiar exigencies of this periodical renovation of the executive power;

"Considering, likewise, that under a presidency of ten, fifteen, or twenty years, the industrious and provident workman is equally troubled in his prudence, in his love of labour, by the uncertainty in which, under an unstable government, he finds the political conditions which ought at some future day to promote him from the position of a labourer to that of an employer."

The petition goes on reciting its "considerations" for the purpose of showing that periodical elections would cause fatal disasters to fathers of families; asserting that they will never be happy and safe, or provident for their family; that "our generation would violate all the duties it owes to succeeding generations, if enamoured of anarchy;" that the "self-denial of Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte," who "desired to reconcile parties, has produced exactly the reverse of the effect which the heir of the Emperor desired; that old parties trouble all existing interests, because they may legally appear at stated intervals; that the old parties abuse the great and noble disinterestedness of Prince Louis Napoleon; and that hereditary power in France will "for the future have no other support than the people's love and—so grandly within fifty years—its twice-merited gratitude to the family of the Emperor." And having massed together these considerations, the petition closes with a prayer:—

"That the father of a family may be at ease as to the future of his children, and remain untroubled by the uncertainties of our political future; that industrious and intelligent labourers may not suffer from the same uncertainty in the legitimate hope of

providing for their old days, for themselves and their families, the just reward of their labour and their frugality.

"For this purpose have the undersigned, confiding in your high wisdom and providence, the honour most respectfully to pray that you will make use of the right which the existing constitution confers upon you, for the interest of the future of the country, in order to re-establish political authority on its truly national and popular basis—the only one which suits our age—namely hereditary tenure of sovereign power in the family of Bonaparte."

Henri de la Rochejaquelein, the son of the heroine of La Vendée, and formerly a zealous and leading legitimist, has accepted the office of President of the *Conseil Général de Deux Sèvres*. He has published in a Paris journal a sort of apology for his conduct:—

"I had seen," he says, "men and political parties closely enough to be convinced, that if the coup d'état of December 2 had not taken place, I certainly should not have had the satisfaction of witnessing the triumph of my own opinions, but that we should have inevitably fallen into the hands of a faction, Red or Blue, which would have given us a régime of which I cannot say that I should have in the slightest degree to acknowledge the mildness. I did not desire to see the present Government; but it has the double merit in my eyes, first, of preventing others from appearing which I should have infinitely less desired to see; and next, of having its basis on the national will, of appealing to all the men of worth who are willing to give their loyal and disinterested co-operation to the service of their country, without asking for any renunciation of their principles. I do not think that Louis Napoleon would think himself honoured by the support of apostates."

A circular, addressed by the Bishop of Chalons to his Clergy, and published in the *Moniteur*, has excited a strong sensation in France. The expression of "man of God," applied to the President of the Republic, has above all given offence to many. The only possible excuse that can be assigned for the extreme obsequiousness of this document is that the writer was an officer of the Empire. The following is the circular, which is certainly quite a curiosity in its way:—

"Monsieur le Curé—The Prince-President being about to visit the south of France, it is only right that he should be accompanied by our prayers that his journey may be a happy one. What he has already witnessed in the east, the touching testimonies of affection which he received there, have shown him what are the sentiments of France towards him, and how grateful we are for all that he has done for us; for he devoted himself generously, he ventured everything, and effected things which no one had thought of before his time. *Amy to be blessed, this man of God, this great man, for it is God who has raised him up for the happiness of our country, to care of the wounds which sixty years of revolutions have left behind. O my God, bless him!* We will pray for him; it is the tribute which he is entitled to demand from us for the saintly services which he has rendered us, and which he is anxious still to render us; and it is a

duty which we ought to be, on our part, anxious to discharge towards him."

The President is fast carrying into effect one of the first decrees issued by him after the 2nd December, 1851. The suppression of the Bagne of Rochefort will be shortly followed by that of the Bagne of Toulon. In a few days 400 convicted felons of this last establishment are to be transported to Guyana, and the remainder are to be removed to the Bagne of Brest. Religious communities are being extended in an extraordinary degree throughout France. The Abbé Lacordaire, of the order of St. Dominic, has conferred the habit of the Dominicans on four novices educated in the Monastery of Flavigny, in the Côte d'Or, which contains seven friars and eighteen novices. The French Dominicans possess another house in the establishment of the Carmelites in Paris, a third at Nancy, and a fourth near Grenoble. The *Moniteur* announces a reduction in the interest on Treasury bonds. The future interest is fixed as follows: On bonds at from four to five months' date, 1½ per cent. per annum. On bonds at from 5 to 11 months' date 2 per cent. On bonds at one year, 3 per cent. Petitions for the re-establishment of the Empire, signed by 15,000 inhabitants of the department of the Cantal, have been forwarded to the Senate.

A case of singular depravity in high life has made a great sensation in Paris. The story is thus told by one of the journals:—The Countess —, belonging to a princely house of one of the small States of the Germanic Confederation, manifested warm passions at an early period, and to prevent their producing disgraceful results her family hastened to get her married. Marriage did not subdue her passions, and after a few stormy years she became a widow. Her misconduct now knew no limit. Forgetting her education, her rank, and all respect for propriety, she had a succession of lovers, and gradually descended in the social scale until she went off with the traveller of a commercial house, whose character was bad, and who had been attracted as much by her large fortune as by her beauty. After an absence of some time, they returned to Paris, and took up their abode in a splendid hotel of the Chaussee d'Antin, where the clerk caused her to put her signature to bills, which he got discounted, and paid his debts with the proceeds. The Count of —, being informed of the degrading life that the Countess was leading in Paris, endeavoured to effect a change by causing her separation from the man with whom she was living; but this did not suffice. She took one lover after another, until at last the man chosen was a low Jew, who treated her with cruelty, and robbed her of her property, and then abandoned her in a state of destitution, when in an advanced period of pregnancy. Soon after this the external signs of pregnancy had disappeared, and rumour was current that she had been secretly delivered, and had destroyed her infant. This rumour having reached the ears of justice, an inquiry was instituted, and it was ascertained that a child had been born alive, and immediately strangled, and thrown down a water-closet. The Countess — has been arrested, and is now in the prison of St. Lazare." The *Presse*, after copying this account, adds—"The person alluded to is the Countess Kinska, a relative of Prince Metternich. A search was made by the police in the apartment occupied by the Countess, and a voluminous correspondence was seized."

The conspirators concerned in the "gas-pipe plot," detected in the Rue de la Reine-Blanche, in June last, have been tried. Fifteen of the prisoners were condemned to terms of imprisonment varying from one to three years, and fined in various sums from 300 to 1000 francs. Two others were subjected to surveillance. The woman Desmars, polisher, cried out after the delivery of sentence, "Vive la République." She was condemned to two years' imprisonment, and 500 francs fine. Favre, a young medical practitioner, was condemned to two years' imprisonment and 1000 francs fine.

The *Vienna* papers contain a horrible story of banditti. A peasant of Gallician Podolia had sold a pair of oxen at a fair; he drank freely on the occasion, and for the safety of his money fastened it round the

waist of his daughter in a girdle. On passing through a wood, three men fell upon the man, dragged him away, and murdered him, his daughter witnessing the dreadful scene from a distance. She fled, and gained the shelter of a cottage; she told a woman who was in the cottage what had occurred, and gave the money into her custody: the woman placed her in a bedroom. Presently the girl heard the three murderers enter—one was the woman's husband. They related to her their disappointment at not finding the money upon the peasant; she laughed, showed them the belt, and said the girl was in the house. The villains resolved to murder her too, by burning her to death in the oven! The girl heard them light the fire. Despair gave her strength to break a hole through the clay wall of the hut, and she got out, met two gendarmes, and told her tale. The assassins and the woman were afterwards arrested.

One of the fruits of the Emperor's journey through *Hungary* has been a commutation of punishments. The last batch consists of fifty persons of all classes of society; including Duschek, Baron Nicolas Vay, Keeper of the Crown, John Vidats, leader of the Pesth students, common Hovveds, lawyers, and clergymen. In most cases these men were sentenced to "death by the rope," and their sentences are commuted into imprisonment for terms of years varying from twenty to two years. Some half-dozen have been fully pardoned. The heaviest punishments fall on the Hovveds.

An Englishman named Newton has recently been subjected to the most outrageous treatment by the Austrian authorities at *Verona*, the particulars of which are thus stated in a letter from his father, Sir William Newton, B.A.:—"My son (an architect) was returning homewards through Verona from his travels, and while examining a part of the fortifications was arrested by the sentinel on duty and taken to the guard-house; and although he proved he was not sketching (for that was the charge against him), as he had only 'Murray's Guide Book' and a plan of Verona in his hands, he was nevertheless kept one hour and a half, and thence conveyed to the police, and there detained two hours and a half. My son naturally remonstrated, and inquired why he was thus treated; but the only answer he could obtain was 'That is an affair of the military authorities.' A person was then ordered to accompany my son to his hotel and examine all his drawings and papers (which he did in the most searching manner), and if 'nothing was found of an objectionable character,' the orders were to discharge my son; and although nothing of that kind was discovered (there being nothing), still he was taken back to the police office, and finally conveyed to prison, without being allowed to go back to his hotel to take some food—he not having had anything since breakfast, and it being then half-past ten o'clock at night. His keys and everything he had in his pockets were taken from him on arriving at the prison. The dungeon was of a 'most loathsome character;' he was confined all night, in perfect darkness, with two low characters (one, I believe, a malfactor); and had only a straw mattress on the ground to repose upon, and which proved to be full of vermin. Next morning he was so ill and exhausted that, when a person came with some food at eight o'clock, he could not take any; he was detained until four o'clock on that day, and then liberated, without any charge being made against him. In this weak state he could scarcely walk; but so soon as he was able he stated his case in writing, and conveyed it to Marshal Radetzky, who after three days referred him to the Governor of Verona. He was, however, treated so rudely by this official, that he was not allowed to state his case, but was ordered to leave the house, which he did; and then my son considered it right to inform Marshal Radetzky of the nature of that interview. My son waited in Verona three or four days afterwards, in expectation that some explanation would have been given to him; but in failure of which he retraced his steps to Venice, and there laid his case before her Majesty's Consul, who was at last induced to take some steps in this act of aggression and outrage. Upon

leaving Venice, my son was again exposed to annoyance at the railway station—his ticket was taken from him, and all his luggage vexatiously examined, by which he was detained beyond the departure of the train, so that he not only lost his time, but his money also. He was in like manner exposed to great annoyance at Milan afterwards."

A great *Eruption of Mount Etna* took place on the night of the 20th of August, and has continued to the latest accounts. It is of a more alarming character than any similar occurrence for half a century. The town of Zaffarana is said to be in considerable danger from the approach of one of the floods of lava. Great damage had already been done to the vineyards and chestnut woods on the slope of the mountain, and it was feared that the damage would still be very considerable, even should Zaffarana escape. This town and Ballo, a suburb thereof, have been deserted by the inhabitants, and several houses higher up than it have been already destroyed. Catania has been visited by heavy showers of black ashes from the mountain, which sometimes made it nearly invisible, but the inhabitants were warned by the continuous heavy explosions that it was still in a very active state.

The *Milan Gazette* of the 14th publishes a notification by Count Strasoldo, Imperial Lieutenant of Lombardy, announcing that this year the two universities of Pavia and Padua will be opened without restriction as they were before the events of 1848. Pupils may be received in the lycæums of the Lombardo-Venetian provinces, without any restriction respecting their legal domicile. Any person wishing to be received as a student at one of the universities must produce a regular passport, a declaration from his provincial delegation attesting his good behaviour, both in a moral and political point of view, and a declaration from his parents, binding themselves to maintain him at the university during the year. Moreover, if the provincial delegation of Pavia or Padua respectively require it, he must produce a satisfactory person, domiciled in either of the two towns, as the case may be, to be surety for his good behaviour. The private study of theology, medicine, pharmacy, and mathematics is prohibited; but the study of law and political science may be taught privately as well as publicly, on condition that no private teacher shall have more than four pupils at a time, or employ more than six hours a day in his vocation.

The *Milan Gazette* of the 16th gives an account of a terrible inundation which has laid waste all the tract of country between *Milan* and the *Lago Maggiore*. On the 9th, about midnight, the torrents from the mountains swelled the Arno and the Strona to such an extent that the waters broke down the dams, and rushed with fearful rapidity in the direction of Gallarate, a commercial town of 4000 inhabitants, which they soon reached, washed away walls and out-houses, penetrated into the cellars, shops, and ground floors, and inundated every part of the town. By extraordinary exertions on the part of the male population no human lives were lost; but horses, cattle, and a multitude of the smaller domestic animals were drowned. Four new bridges built over the mountain stream of the Arno were carried off, as was also an old and solid one on the Strona, which had resisted many a fearful inundation before. The damage done to property of every kind is immense, but has not yet been ascertained. The only inundation upon record in that district, equal to this in violence and extent, occurred on 24th July, 1732.

There have been *Extensive Inundations in Switzerland and the Upper Rhine*. The waters of the Rhine, and the affluents of the Leman suddenly rose to a fearful height in consequence of the heavy rains in Switzerland and Alsace. Many parts of the country have been laid under water, and great damage has been done in the fields and in the towns. From Strasburg, Lausanne, Basle, Geneva, Yverdon, and other places there are accounts of disasters by the ravages of the waters. The Duchess of Orleans was placed in a situation of imminent peril. On the 17th the duchess, accompanied by her two sons and several persons of her

suite, was going from Lausanne to Berne, but, on arriving at Moudon, she learned that the bridge at Courtilles had been carried away by a flood on the previous night; and she was thus compelled to return and take the route of Romont, Fribourg, &c. In the afternoon her carriage, owing to the imprudence of the coachman, fell into a wide ditch full of water at the entrance of the village of Promasens, and was turned upside down. The duchess had her collar bone broken, and the other travellers have escaped with some bruises.

The *Dutch Chambers* were closed on the 18th by the Minister of the Interior. The speech congratulated the States General upon the settlement of the budget, the reform of the fiscal system, the regulation of the commercial and maritime relations of the country with various foreign states, and the extension of the means of internal communication. On behalf of the King, the minister expressed his satisfaction with the results of the session, and thanked the chamber for its zealous attachment to the interests of the kingdom.

An English lady has just been released from prison at *Florence*, after two months of solitary confinement, for having contracted marriage with a Tuscan officer, in the manner termed *matrimonio di sorpresa*, which may be considered equivalent to a *Greenwich match* in England. The parties being much attached to each other, although family obstacles prevented their regular marriage, they resolved to adopt the plan above mentioned, which consists in the couple presenting themselves before the curate of the parish, and stating to him in the presence of two witnesses that they are man and wife. This forms a valid marriage, according to the law of the church of Rome. The lady, being a Roman catholic, sent to the *curato* to inform him that she wished to confess, and requested him to mention the hour that would suit him to hear her. At the hour named she repaired to the confessional, and had fully engaged the priest's attention, when her lover, attended by two witnesses, suddenly presented himself—the lady arose and gave him her hand, the fatal words were pronounced, the witnesses attested, and the curate became the unwilling instrument of a "marriage by surprise." But although the marriage contracted in this manner is perfectly valid, it is punishable in Tuscany as a civil misdemeanour, so that the law condemns what the church sanctions. The officer was first confined in a military fortress, deprived of his rank, and dismissed the service, and then sent to expiate his offence, in a civil point of view, by two months' solitary confinement in the Muratte cellular prisons, and his wife had to undergo a similar term in another prison. Another instance of this kind occurred a short time before. The priest was sent for as if to attend a dying person; but one of the witnesses getting alarmed before the curate arrived, went down stairs and warned his reverence that "a snare was prepared for him. The curate, very indignant, sent for a couple of gendarmes, and with them presented himself to arrest the culpable parties; the other witness got out of an upper window, and escaped over the tiles; but the bridegroom, nothing daunted by the priest and his *posse comitatus*, and resolved not to miss his marriage for want of witnesses, addressed the curate in the usual formula, "This is my wife," said he, "and this is my husband," responded the lady; "and these two gentlemen," resumed the bridegroom, pointing to the two astounded gendarmes, "are witnesses!" The priest was *done*, and the marriage was valid.—The ceremony of crowning the picture of the Madonna under the title of the Santissima Annunziata, took place on the morning of the 8th, amidst an immense concourse of holiday people, and under a beautiful sky.—In a tract just published, wherein a vast number of most astounding miracles are circumstantially related as having been worked by the picture in question, it is stated that the face of the Holy Virgin, as it now appears on the wall of the chapel, was supernaturally depicted by a celestial hand, whilst the painter at work on the fresco was asleep, in the year 1252.

The cholera continues to rage in *Poland*. A Prussian journal gives the following account from Warsaw, on the

28th of August:—"Above 5000 persons have died in the hospitals here, and the total number of those who have been carried off by cholera is probably greater than 20,000. Cars, waggons, britskas, and conveyances of every possible kind, are perpetually conveying corpses to our burial grounds. The pest rages most horribly among the Israelites. In one fortnight—namely, from the 8th to the 22nd of August—1662 Jews have been buried." From Posen we read in the same journal:—"Forty-three persons died here yesterday (August 31); there are 405 under medical treatment. The wife of the commandant, General Tietzen, was one of the fated victims of the pest."

Accounts from *St. Petersburg* record a Russian razzia in the Caucasus. The inhabitants of three villages on the Argun, above Schatli, having much disturbed the population subject to Russia by their incursions, Lieutenant-Colonel Prince Tschelokagom collected 750 men, including four Don Cossacks, surrounded the villages, and, after a sanguinary conflict, took and burned them to ashes.

It appears by the intelligence from *China*, that the rebellion gains ground, and now threatens the very existence of the Tartar dynasty. Choo, or Tsou, the Prince of the old Ming family, who has several times made known to his countrymen that he is anxiously watching the progress of events, still remains in the background; cautiously, perhaps, anticipating the time when—the country from end to end being in a state of anarchy—the throne will revert to his possession an easy prize. The insurgents, after having attacked Kwei-lin-foo, the capital of Kwang-si, had proceeded towards the borders of the adjoining province of Hunan. Dividing, it would appear, into two parties, one body attacked and captured the town of Tsuen at the north, the other crossed the border and took the township Tau; and another smaller place, which we do not find in the map of Hunan, called Keem-wha. Keem-wha, at last advices, was held to a ransom of thirty thousand taels. In Hunan large gangs immediately joined the insurgents, as a distinguishing mark wearing blue caps or turbans; the Kwangsi men, red. Seu, the imperial commissioner, has fought a battle with the rebels, and has been defeated. It is stated that the rebels of Lo-king-shan, belonging to Kaou Chow, had encamped on the top of a high mountain, by a dangerous pass. On the 19th of June, Seu resolved on dislodging them; and, leading a body of 4000 men, proceeded directly to the rear of the mountain where the rebels were. But, anticipating this movement, the insurgents had undermined the ground, dug pits, and thrown up various obstacles. The mines being sprung, fire, arrows, and stones were hurled down on the unfortunate army, and fully the half of the whole body were killed or seriously wounded. Among the latter, mortally, were the military Keujin Wei-tso-pang and Hwang-yu kee, spoken of as talented officers.

The accounts from *New York* to the latest date are as follow:—Nothing further had transpired respecting the fisheries question. Public attention was much occupied with a dispute with the Peruvian Government as to the Lobos Islands, a great deposit of guano on the South American coast. A correspondence has been published between Mr. Webster and Senor Osma, the Peruvian *charge d'affaires* at Washington on this subject, the most important letter of the series being the last, in which Mr. Webster persists in asserting the right of the United States to take guano from them, from long and uninterrupted usage, the Americans having visited them for selling and fishing purposes ever since the year 1793, in which respect he considers the case is different from that of England. The gist of the argument is in the following paragraph:—

"If it shall turn out, as has been intimated above, that those islands are uninhabited and uninhabitable, and therefore incapable of being legally possessed or held by any one nation, they and their contents must be considered the common property of all; or, if unprotected by the presence of Peruvian authorities, and without actual possession, their use has been by Peru abandoned and conceded, without limitation of time, to citizens of the United States for a long period, or yielded in conse-

quence of the remonstrance of this government or its agents, then no exclusive ownership can be pretended as against the United States at least."

Upon the strength of these opinions thus held by Mr. Webster, more than 20 large vessels, aggregating upwards of 15,000 tons, have been despatched by American merchants to the Lobos Islands for guano.

Congress closed its session of 1852 on the 31st of August. During the three preceding days a vast number of bills had been disposed of. Interest in the Fishery question was dying away, and it was understood that the Asia had brought out despatches containing a settlement satisfactory to both governments. Commodore Perry returned from the fishing-grounds on the 2nd September to New York.

Emigration to Australia from the Atlantic cities of the United States, especially from New York, is one of the most striking facts brought by the late mails. A ship carrying 233 adventurers set sail from New York for Port Phillip. Five other vessels were advertised to sail from the same port, and one from Boston. So large is this emigration expected to be, that the Wesleyan Missionary Society have determined to send our additional missionaries to Victoria, "to obviate any danger of the settlers lapsing into barbarism through the paucity of spiritual instructors." This movement has originated through the glowing accounts received from successful gold-hunters. Great numbers of adventurers from California are also reported as having invaded the diggings.

From Albany there is an account of an attempted outrage by a party of *Anti-Renters*, which resulted in the death of one of the gang, and the wounding of one or two others. It appears that they went at night, disguised as Indians, to the house of Mr. Shaw, whom they tarred and feathered a few weeks before, in addition to burning his outbuildings, and upon his refusing to come out they threatened to set fire to his house. As a means of self-defence Mr. Shaw discharged the contents of a revolver among the party, which had the effect of killing one of them, named Whitbeck, and making his companions fly with all speed. It is singular that, in one of the oldest, most enlightened, and by far the wealthiest states in the Union, these anti-rent desperadoes should have been so long permitted to commit deeds of violence with impunity, and that while the law slumbers, citizens are compelled to take the lives of these rioters in order to protect their persons and property from devastation.

The intelligence from *California* comes down to the 14th of August. Statistics have been published, showing that 51,000 people have arrived at San Francisco since the 1st of January last. Estimating the arrivals by sea during the remainder of 1852 at 35,000, it will give 86,000 as the increase of population from that source for the current year. From present indications, the overland immigration cannot be less than 40,000, which will swell the number of people who will visit California during the season to 126,000. Allowing for the number who will leave the state, it will still be within bounds to estimate the increase of population for the present year at about 100,000. At this rate California will soon be one of the most populous states in the Union, and its people are speculating on the probability that, after the census of 1860, they will very likely have sufficient political influence to turn the scale in a Presidential election in favour of which party they choose. From a recent estimate, believed to be correct, it appears that there are 4330 houses in San Francisco, which are presumed to contain seven persons each—making the population of this city about 30,000. Five years ago the little town of San Francisco contained a few houses built of sun-dried brick, and had a population of less than 400. Four years ago the population was still less than 1000. The bare mention of these facts is the most appropriate commentary on the unparalleled progress of the city—a city whose commerce is felt throughout the world, whose exports are more than 75,000,000 dollars per annum. According to a provision in the constitution, a new census will be taken of California this year. Agents have been

appointed for each county in the state, who are now performing their labours. The population of California, it is estimated, will probably reach 350,000 before the 1st of January next. The number of French people in California is estimated at 22,000. In San Francisco they are numerous enough to sustain a tri-weekly newspaper of fair proportions in the French language.

By the latest intelligence from Mexico it appears that that country was in a state of increasing disorder, apparently betokening approaching dissolution. The courier of the British legation reached Vera Cruz from the interior on the morning of the 4th of August, and, in addition to the risings in the state of Vera Cruz and Sonora, brings the intelligence that a revolution had taken place in the state of Guadalupe, which would probably be followed in other states.

The accounts from the *Sandwich Islands* mention the arrival of a Swedish vessel, named the *Sarniento*, with a great number of passengers, from Panama to San Francisco, which had put in there from want of provisions. A fearful tragedy had been enacted on board during the voyage.—On the 21st of May a young man named Woolfork, about nineteen years of age, from

Kentucky, shot a German named Johnson through the heart. The origin of the affair was a dispute about a tin cup, of which Woolfork had two and the German none. In the hasty altercation the handle was wrenched off, when Woolfork drew his revolver and shot Johnson dead. A scene of the greatest excitement ensued. The murderer was seized—111 voted that he should be hung, 32 against it, and the remainder neutral. A judge was appointed; a jury of twelve empannelled; the prisoner found guilty of murder, and sentenced to be hung within one hour. During the interval between the sentence and execution, the dead body of the murdered German was brought on deck, the preparation made, and after allowing the condemned man a quarter of an hour over his time, he was run up the yard arm, where life soon became extinct. He was then cut adrift, fell upon his face into the sea, and continued to float until left out of sight by the vessel.—On the 25th of May, water was sold for 1 dol. per bottle by those of the passengers who required less than some of their fellows. From the 19th of June to the 3rd of July, the passengers had no bread. There were eleven women and two children on board, one of each of whom died before reaching San Blas. Six others died on board besides the murderer and murdered.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

OUR next narrative will have to record the commencement of the publishing season. In the present we have but to gather up such occasional publications, very few of them possessing much interest or value, as have been thinly scattered over the past month.

The *Memoirs of the Baroness d'Oberkirch*, an Alsatian woman of rank in attendance on the French court in the last days of the old French monarchy, gives a very genuine picture of society in Paris on the very eve of the General Overthrow, which is chiefly remarkable for its unconscious delineation of the utter ignorance and indifference which preceded the catastrophe. The *Battle of Leipzig* is a clear and simple narrative of the terrible fight which shook to its foundations the power of Napoleon, written by the Chaplain-General of the forces, who possesses in greater perfection perhaps than any other living writer the power of simplifying and rendering clear to the most unpractised mind the complicated details of war. His narrative of Leipzig is as good as that of Waterloo. *Annette* is a story of which the interest hinges on the romantic episode of La Vendée in the first French revolution, and which possesses another not indifferent attraction in a memoir of its author, by Mr. Justice Talfourd, who contributes to the better illustration of a question which has lately been much discussed, namely, the claims and rewards of authorship, not only many judicious and forcible remarks of his own, but two original and most kind-hearted letters by Sir Walter Scott.

Dr. McGillivray's *History of British Birds* has been completed by the publication of its fourth and fifth volumes but a few days before the death of its admirable writer, whose loss every lover of natural history will have reason to lament. Two clever books of travel have appeared, which derive their value less from practised writing than from fresh and lively observation: Mr. Sullivan's *Rambles and Scrambles in North and South America*, and Lieutenant March's *Walk across the French Frontier into Spain*. A translation of a French huguenot's history of the persecutions of the Waldenses has been published with the title of *The Israel of the Alps*; and an excellent translation of Jerrold's very lively *Pictures from St. Petersburg* has been given in the Messrs. Longman's Traveller's Library. The last book we have to mention in this department is perhaps one of the most original and curious of all the illustrations of foreign character and usage which have been contributed to our literature. It is an account of the *Ceremonial Usages of the Chinese* eleven hundred and twenty-one years before Christ, translated from the original Chinese by Mr. Raymond Gingell.

What few books with any title to attention remain to complete this brief summary have also reached us from abroad. Mr. Theodore Parker's *Discourse of Matters Pertaining to Religion* is the offering of an eloquent American writer and thinker to rationalistic views in theology, urged with a moral purpose and design of the very highest and purest order. M. Victor Hugo has issued contemporaneously in London (the publishers of Belgium having been ordered to close their doors against him) the original, and a translation, of his terrible diatribe against M. Louis Bonaparte, *Napoleon le Petit*. It is an assault of the most bitter personality, but too full of thought as well as bitterness, and above all too well-grounded, not to produce enduring effects. M. V. Schœlcher has also made public, but in French only, his account of the Bonaparte usurpation, under the title of *Histoire des Crimes du Deux Décembre*. M. Schœlcher being much less of a philosopher than Victor Hugo, and much more of a political enthusiast even than the poet and academician, his book wants the eloquence and purpose of his fellow exile's, but its facts are not less damning, nor less likely to sink into the hearts and minds of honest, truth-loving, conscientious men.

The lease of Her Majesty's Theatre is about to become the property of a Joint Stock Company, which is now in course of formation. A prospectus has been issued, with the names of the Duke of Leinster, the Marquis of Clanricarde, Frederick Mildred, Esq., and B. Oliveira, Esq., M.P., as trustees; and the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Harrington, Major-General the Honourable H. F. C. Cavendish, Sir John Bayley, Bart., and C. Barry Baldwin, Esq., as committeemen. It is stated that a large proportion of the shares have already been subscribed. It is proposed to create 40,000 shares, of 5*l.* each, by which 200,000*l.* may be raised, a portion of which will be devoted to the purchase of the lease of the theatre and concert room, &c.; the remainder, estimated at 75,000*l.*, to constitute the capital for carrying out the lyrical objects of the association. The affairs of the company will be conducted by a managing director to be appointed by the committee, who, it is understood, will be Mr. Lunley.

There have been three great provincial Music-meetings during this month; the Birmingham Festival, which has been the most successful that has taken place since the opening of the New Hall in 1824; the meeting of the three choirs of Hereford, Worcester, and Gloucester, held this year at Hereford; and the Norwich Festival.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the London Gazette of August 31st.—W. HOARE, Manor-place, Walworth-road, bricklayer.—G. BATTESBY, Turnham-green, victualler.—H. TANISH, Matten-garden, dealer in Bibles.—T. SPURRING, Road-side, Mile-end-road, victualler.—R. FULKES, Park-street, Camden-town, ironmonger.—H. and T. JAMES, Rushall, Staffordshire, millers.—F. WALE, Leicester, draper.—E. H. GRIFFIN, Liverpool, merchant.—J. CRAVEN, Birkenhead, grocer.

Sept. 3rd.—W. AUGUST, Norwich, builder.—J. COLE, Robert-street, Limehouse, victualler.—G. JOHNSON, Poplar, coal-merchant.—T. BURNIP, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, draper.—J. BOWERS, Worcester, grocer.—T. ROBERTS, Hunslet, glass-bottle-maker.

Sept. 7th.—S. WARNER, Blackheath, plasterer.—H. N. BREWER, Deptford, mast-maker.—J. TOWLER, Clifton, builder.—D. SPARKS, Cirencester, surgeon.

Sept. 10th.—S. L. PRATT, New Bond-street, upholsterer.—A. MEYER, Throgmorton-street, merchant.—C. DAVEY, Brixton, linen-draper.—J. HARPER, Gloucester, hotel-keeper.—J. LEE, Dewsbury, grocer.

Sept. 14th.—A. FORBES, Dunstable, straw-bonnet-manufacturer.—L. and M. WORMS, Queen-street, Cheapside, merchants.—B. SALTER, North-end, Fulham, brewer.—H. G. QUILTER, Birmingham, grocer.—M. RICHARDS, Birmingham, grocer.—E. MICHELSON, Manchester, woollen-merchant.—E. JONES, Liverpool, linen-draper.

Sept. 17th.—D. J. MACKELLER and C. HAMPSON, Gresham-street, shawl-warehousemen.—G. CLAPHAM, Whittlesea, Cambridge, watchmaker.—D. MARRIOTT, Oxford-street, draper.—H. A. BARKER, City-road, coal-merchant.—A. AUGUST, Norwich, ironmonger.—B. BALLS, Birmingham, perfumer.—G. GILBERT, Nottingham, builder.—T. STALEY, Stockport, grocer.—C. S. HARRIS, Liverpool, pawnbroker.

Sept. 21st.—B. S. DEELEY, Buckley-street, Whitechapel, engineer.—J. L. HOKINS, Star-corner, Bernardsey, draper.—J. F. LAWRENCE, Woakey-hole, Somersetshire, paper-maker.—H. MILES and C. MILES, Old-road, Limehouse, and Giles-road, Mile-end-road, drapers.—R. WILLSON, Cambridge, grocer.

Sept. 24th.—H. ASHTON and S. SPRIGGS, Aldermanbury, City, warehousemen.—H. MCGROTT, Liverpool, merchant.—T. MOYLE, Manchester, draper.—G. C. PAULING and R. C. SHARP, Manchester, merchants.—J. ROEBUCK and W. ROEBUCK, Bank-end Mill, Holmfirth, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturers.—O. E. TEASELL, Norwich, timber-merchant.—W. TURNER, Bath, engineer.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

August 31st.—T. LINDFIELD, jun., Stanhope-street, Hampstead-road, builder.—J. HURN, Geduey-hill, Lincolnshire, miller.

Sept. 7th.—W. CRABTREE and S. SHEPHERD, Bradford, Yorkshire, iron-founders.

Sept. 10th.—D. LANSLEY, Bath, livery-stable-keeper.

MONEY MARKET.

As a speculation the money market has this month been almost a blank. Members of the House have followed their clients to the moors and to the seaside for temporary renovation. Although gold pours in from the Antipodes and from California, no sensible effect has been wrought by its influx. The three and a half per cents have been closed during a great part of the month, and the prices of the stocks have remained steady and high. Railway shares have altered very little in prices since our last report.

STOCKS.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	100½	99½	100½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	101	100½	100½
Three and a quarter per Cents . .	104½	104½	104½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1850 . . .	6½	6½	6½
Bank Stock . . .	230	227	229
Exchange Bills . . .	74pm.	67	70 pm.
India Bonds, £1000 . . .	89pm.	84pm	87

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Brazilian 5 per cent. scrip, 2½	Peruvian 6 per cent. 101
Chilian 6 per cent. 100½	Portuguese 4 per cent. 37½
Danish 5 per cent. 107½	Russian 4½ per cent. 104½
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 90½	Spanish 3 per cent. 50½
Mexican 3 per cent. 25½	Sardinian, 16½.

Paied.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	105	104½	104
all	Blackwall . . .	8½	8½x.d	8
St. 100	Caledonian . . .	43½	42	43½
all	Eastern Counties . . .	11½	7½	11½
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow . .	72	69	69x.d
" 100	Great Northern . . .	80x.d	76	76
" 100	Great Western . . .	97½	96½	95½
" 100	Lancashire and Yorkshire . .	87	84½	84x.d
" 100	London & North-Western . .	123	119½	119½
" 100	Midland . . .	77½	76½	76½
" 100	North British . . .	31½	30½	30½
" 100	South-Eastern and Dover . .	72½	71½	71x.d
" 100	York, Newcas. and Berwick . .	68x.d	67	67
" 100	York and North Midland . .	49½x.d	48½x.d	49

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Rouen, 36
East Indian, 8 pm.	Paris and Strasbourg, 29½
Namur and Liege, 7½	Rouen and Havre, 16
Northern of France, 28½	Tours and Nantes, 13½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 37s. to 50s.; Barley, 24s. to 36s.; Oats, 17s. to 22s.; Rye, 30s. to 32s.; Beans, 34s.; Peas, 30s. to 40s.; Flour (town made), delivered, 30s. to 40s.; American barrel of 250 lb., 21s. to 23s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., Waterford, 50s. to 62s.; Belfast, 50s. to 54s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cam-berland, 70s. to 8½s.; Irish, 50s. to 74s.; Westphalia, 44s. to 50s.
Beef, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 2s. 4d. to 3s. 8d.	Mutton, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.
Butter, per cwt.—Cork, 76s. to 79s.; Waterford, 1st, 70s. to 80s.; Dutch Friesland, 80s. to 92s.; Limerick, 68s. to 74s.	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 60s. to 72s.; Kent and Essex middling, 55s. to 70s.; Chats, 22s. to 24s.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 44s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 36s. to 58s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 28s. to 36s.; American, 32s. to 44s.; Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.	Pork, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. Veal, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 4s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 29s. to 44s.; Bahia, 24s. to 36s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica 30s. to 38s. Mauritius, brown, 25s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.; Brazil, 29s. to 39s.
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 42s. to 88s.; Mocha, 50s. to 93s.; Sumatra, 34s. to 37s.; Java, 42s. to 46s.	Tea, per lb. (duty 2s. 1d. and 5 per cent.)—Ord. to good Congon, 7d. to 1s. 6d.; Souchoing, com. to fine, 8d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 6d. to 1s. 3d.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal fine white, 9s. 6d. to 11s. 6d.; Madras, 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.; Patna, cleaned, 11s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.	Coals, per ton, 14s. 6d. to 22s. 6d.
Candles, per 12 lb., 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	

OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 34l. 10s. to 57l. 10s.	Olive, Callipoli per ton, 58l. to 59l.
Sperm, 55l. 10s. to 57l. 10s.	Linseed, per cwt., 29l. 9s.
Cod, 33l.	
Palm, per cwt., 29s. to 30s.	

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.] FROM THE 28TH SEPTEMBER TO THE 27TH OCTOBER. [PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

WHEN a newspaper dulness has grown to unusual intensity, it is pretty certain to find relief in a sudden flow of exciting paragraphs, of which the happy peculiarity is that while they act as a pleasing stimulus for the time, they leave behind them no trace whatever. They have not improperly been called newspaper dispensations. "Convocation" is the latest example of the kind. A false alarm that it was to be allowed to meet for the dispatch of business, has, for some ten days of the past month, made the newspapers quite lively, and given to great numbers of people the same animating terror that a battle, or murder on a large scale, or news of the approach of cholera for the dispatch of business, might have done. In considering what has to be undergone by the reading community, with hardly a possibility of escape, when Parliament meets for business purposes, the mind really sinks overpowered at the idea of another public debating club sitting in the same quarter, representing nothing whatever but the debaters themselves, and these formed exclusively of a class to whom the remark of Clarendon has become more and more applicable every year, since it was first thrown out a couple of hundred years ago, "Of all mankind none form so bad an estimate of human affairs as churchmen."

By churchmen, Clarendon meant priests; just as, when they talk of the church, priests mean only themselves. But a laity as well as a clergy is necessary to constitute a church; and any pretence that the houses of convocation ever represented it, without a layman sitting in them, or the power to bind a layman to accept any one of their canons, is a ridiculous fraud. Convocation was an expedient of the thirteenth century to compel the church to submit to taxation; and down to the last days of its foolish existence it was never substantially anything else. As long as it did anything, it did the work of a committee of ways and means to the house of commons; and when Lord Clarendon managed to trip it up at this work, it had nothing more to do, and fell to those evil courses notoriously the refuge of the idle. Its grand peculiarity became bad language. It was the parliament of billingsgate. When it was at last found necessary to put a gag upon it, now nearly a hundred and fifty years ago, its outbreaks of personal ribaldry and sectarian spite had made it a public scandal. No wonder people should now be terrified at the remotest prospect of ungagging so foul a month. Fancy the Bishop of Exeter in one house and Mr. George Anthony Denison in the other!

Whether Lord Derby ever seriously contemplated the folly is now hardly worth considering. That he had been coquetting with the Convocation party became clear from Mr. Denison's unexpected support of his claim to the Oxford Chancellorship, of which, chiefly by that means (for it disarmed the tractarians), he suddenly possessed himself; but on the other hand it may readily be supposed that the latest

performances of Exeter's famous bishop, and their reception by a discriminating public, were of a kind to unsettle these high church haunterings. That celebrated prelate has been hard at work during all the month. He has sat in judgment upon one of his clergymen, accused of playing father confessor to a number of young girls in defiance of English decency even more than of Protestant doctrine, and has triumphantly acquitted him. He has declared that the church does not admit of a confessional, though it may not censure a confessor; and has clamoured for a prosecution in the Court of Arches, that he may prove his antagonists to be libellers. He has selected the church of this quasi-Romanist priest for his own latest confirmation in his diocese; and to that sacred office he has proceeded, according to the accounts in the newspapers which reach us while we write, amid yells and groans and hissings and bootings from crowds of well-dressed people. "Inspector Thomas had to send round two policemen to the other side of the carriage, towards which there was a great rush, to prevent the people from opening the door. The bishop had his plain coat buttoned to the chin." In short, the bishop, in his plain coat buttoned to the chin, has all the month been thoroughly enjoying himself. For has not hot water been his element ever since his name was Philpotts? He has thriven and grown to his present bulk on the nourishment of heats and disorders. It was an abusive pamphlet that lifted him to the bench; and if we are asked for the bitterest party pamphlets of the age, we have but to point to his episcopal charges and pastoral letters. His measure of the capacity of good in anything has been its capacity of abusive treatment, and he has encouraged or discountenanced it accordingly. Under flags and symbols of peace and good-will, war still has been his trade. His bitterest innuendos have taken the form of charitable allowances, and never has he been so hard upon his adversaries as when professing to intercede for their forgiveness. The consequence of all which is, that the diocese by course of time having come quite naturally to reflect its bishop, Exeter is the most quarrelsome place in the world; and it exhibits its worst disturbances in connection with its places of worship, just as its right reverend father hits heaviest with his prayers.

Not wholly to this noisy diocese, however, have the ecclesiastical scandals of the month been confined. It has furnished us with a highly edifying discussion of religious equality from the Irish side of the Channel, in which the principle laid down by the authorised representative of the Catholic priesthood in that country is plainly this, that where a government is Protestant, the rule should be perfect equality for all churches, and share and share alike in all church property; but where a government is Catholic, confiscation of all livings and persecution of all opinions but its own should be held an imperative duty. Thus, that Archbishop Whately should be

better paid than Archbishop Cullen, in Ireland, is a piece of monstrous injustice; but that a respectable Tuscan and his wife should now be expiating, in Florence, by four years of brutal and infamous labour at the galleys, the crime of having possessed and read the Holy Scriptures and the English book of common prayer, is a thing perfectly just and righteous. In other words, abuse and intimidate unceasingly an established religion that gives you liberty to think, and breath to spare for bullying; but to a religion which in the power of its predominance stifles your utterance, confiscates your earnings, robs you and tramples on you, submit without murmur or questioning. And the pen from which this argument proceeded, was probably still wet with the ink into which it dipped to express that glorious doctrine of equality on which the latest agitation-shop has just been opened in Dublin. "That religious freedom, equal, impartial, and universal, shall be extended to all, of whatever religious denomination, and that all shall share equally in the ecclesiastical resources of the State, according to the religion in which they were born, or which their consciences may lead them to profess!"

Another proposition in the same argument, used by way of enforcing the claim of equality, it will be charitable to treat as the slip of a too fluent pen. For if we were to accept as gravely intended the remark that the majority of the Irish people had reason to believe themselves "robbed," not only of their religious endowments but also "of their estates" by the "miserable minority" now ruling them, we might appear to drag the writer into some sort of complicity with a crime which he doubtless abhors as much as we do. Perhaps the worst agrarian murder, in that foul and bloody series for which Ireland is infamous, is that now fresh and reeking from the ground. Occasionally there have existed palliations for even that worst atrocity to which man can be goaded by oppression; but the equities in this case had not been denied, nor had any cruelty or inhumanity been committed. The property in relation to which the bloody revenge was taken, had just passed through the Incumbered Estates Court into possession of an owner who enjoyed, and could exert, something more than merely the name of its landlord. Here was no case of a nominal owner, with the means of the poor and the waste of the rich, with the duties of one condition and the necessities of the other, such as have been the curse of that unhappy land. A substantial resident purchaser had been found for the estate; but meeting on the threshold of his purchase some difficulty in obtaining recognition of his new rights, he had instructed his agent—not to injure, harass, or dispossess a single tenant, not to alter in any way the terms or conditions of one of the holdings, but—simply to take legal steps to compel the acknowledgment of what was not only justly and undeniably his, but what it was most the interest of the recusant holders themselves to acknowledge for his. The agent, a kind good man, known well throughout the county for his gentleness and forbearance, is driving with a friend in a gig from the assize town where those necessary steps have been taken. He holds the reins loosely, the horse is slowly ascending a hill, and he is speaking to his companion; when the latter, hearing a shot fired, sees the whip fall from his friend's hand, observes his words suddenly cease, while his face inclines a little forward; and, as the startled man turns quickly round to see whence the shot proceeded, his unhappy friend falls dead at his feet, with the back part of his head shattered, and bearing the marks of twenty-seven slugs that had passed through the top of his brain. It was not a lonely neighbourhood; within a few yards were several houses, and at no great distance stood a rail-

way station; but vain were all cries for help, or attempts to find trace of the murderer. The body still lay where it fell, when the gig was again overtaken; its pockets untouched; and the large sum of untrifled money in them bearing terrible evidence of the character of the organisation to which he had been sacrificed.

Now, it is in the presence of such fearful events as this that the language quoted from the organ of the Irish priesthood assumes a significance too startling, which it would be better that it should not possess. Instead of the peculiar condition of Ireland offering any excuse for the heated language of its professing advocates, it only aggravates the imprudence and wickedness to the greatest degree. Even where a real case of oppression exists, the oppressor should be spared, if the sparing him is necessary to sparing his victims the crimes of revenge and blood. Here there was as little pretence for any such imputation, as there was a call for the ardent exponent of religious equality to animate his argument by implying that its establishment should include not only a restitution of church revenue to the Catholic priests, but a transfer of Irish land to the Catholic cultivators of the soil. There are representations as provocative to the lust of vengeance, as others are to propensities of another kind; but there is no pander so infamous as the man who recklessly inflames animosities which he cannot control,—for he panders to the intercourse of Death and Sin.

The locality of this murder, it ought at the same time to be stated, adds no new feature of aggravation to the existing state of Ireland. The place where it occurred has been long proverbial for similar atrocities; whereas in other districts, there cannot be a doubt, vast beneficial changes are in operation, not less active or assured because they are silent and unobtrusive. Emigration is doing its work. Scotch agricultural colonists and capitalists have been entering Ireland by one portal, while the native Irish were leaving by others; and the result in many quarters is already perceptible in less crowded poor-houses and better-paid rents, much increase of briskness in markets, and an evident dullness in the trade of agitation. Ireland just at present, in short, is by no means an exception to the increased activity and prosperity everywhere else observable. In the Irish linen market there has been great improvement; and from that quarter, as from all other parts of the three kingdoms, what we hear of the condition of the working class is more favourable than at any former time. To say this, of course is also to say that the manufacturing districts are flourishing, that great contracts are in progress, that prices are rising in the markets, factories increasing, docks full, ship-yards busy, and speculation alert and bold in all the directions of enterprise. What portion of this healthy energy is attributable to our progress in the arts; in what degrees it is to be divided between our noble inventions, our abolition of restrictive laws, the freedom of commercial intercourse we have so largely promoted, or the gold discoveries which have startled the world at the very time when it is best able to turn them to striking account; every one in these kingdoms is now eagerly waiting for Mr. Disraeli to explain. Let no one else attempt it. The words of Mercury are harsh while we wait for the songs of Apollo.

Turning to subjects, therefore, that men not absolutely inspired may meanwhile properly discuss, let us, in conclusion, note one or two incidents awaiting the reader of our month's Narrative which he will find very worthy of attention. At last there appears to be a probability, if not of finding our gallant Franklin and his comrades, at any rate of knowing with some degree of

certainty that all hope of finding them must for ever be surrendered. What Mr. Penny asserted last year of the strong probability of a passage existing, open when Barrow's Straits are closed, northward and north-west of the Wellington Channel, is now under active solution. Sir Edward Belcher has by this time entered it, if it exists; and *there*, we can hardly doubt, whether or not the climate beyond is fitted for the habitation of man, the fate of Franklin will have left its trace, if to ascertain it be now in any manner possible. Let us observe, too, that another high-spirited Englishman, who had ventured into regions hardly less forlorn and cold than those of the Arctic solitudes, has been saved and made his escape at the cost of something short of ruin. After many years' pitching about in courts legal and ecclesiastical, sat upon by bishops, snubbed and stripped of office by chapters and deans, the learned and honest master of Rochester Grammar-school finds himself once more reinstated among his scholars, though with the sum of his own salary for three years added to the other annual appropriations of his opponents, and under enforced obligation to future silence on the doings of those in authority over him. Nor let us fail to note, if with a very different kind of interest, another much-tossed traveller, not escaped from icy wastes or deserts episcopal or ecclesiastical, but coming willingly among us from far southern oceans, and bringing home to us with a strange vividness one of the most romantic of all our stories of the sea. Many men still living must remember the Mutiny of the *Boat*, though they could not know, till many years after its incidents startled their boyhood, that the dozen Englishmen who committed that great crime had betaken themselves immediately after, with three savage women, to one of the smallest and most lonely islands in the southern ocean, and there formed a community preserving civilised habits, practising Bible precepts, holding land in common, singularly free from crime, living chiefly on yams and bread fruits, marrying and giving in marriage, talking a rude English, and now constituting, after the lapse of about sixty years, a commonwealth of nearly two hundred souls, all born upon the island. Our present visitor is their surgeon and pastor, who comes to get ordination from a bishop, and to interest people here in his fellow-islanders: for it is supposed, the little colony being nearly half-way between Panama and Australia, that one of the places at which steamers will have to touch for water, when they begin to run, will be Pitcairn's Island.

Of the world's wonder which is now being acted out in France, there is small need to speak. Suffice it to mark the very great probability which now exists, that the day which sees the conqueror of Napoleon laid by the side of Nelson in St. Paul's Cathedral, will see the nephew of Napoleon installed at the Tuilleries as his imperial successor, by the name, style, and title of "Napoleon the Third, Emperor of the French, King of Algeria, and Protector of the Sanctuaries!"

NARRATIVE OF POLITICS.

THE *Gazette* of the 16th, contains a royal proclamation proroguing Parliament from the 21st instant to Thursday the 4th of November, when it is to meet for the dispatch of business.

A Parliamentary paper has just been printed, showing the *Public Income and Expenditure for the last Three Years*, ended the 5th of January. The income was respectively 57,647,392*l.*, 57,431,796*l.*, and 56,834,711*l.*, while the expenditure was in the three years as follows. —In 1850, 55,480,666*l.*, leaving a surplus of income of

2,166,736*l.*; in 1851, 51,938,531*l.*, leaving a surplus of income of 2,493,262*l.*; and in 1852, 54,002,995*l.*, leaving a surplus of income of 2,831,716*l.* The expenditure on account of the army, navy, and ordnance in the year ended the 5th of January last was 14,573,856*l.* There is an appendix to the return, giving the expenditure in detail. The charges of the collection of the Customs and Excise last year were 1,300,679*l.* The total charge of collecting the revenue in the year was 2,708,426*l.* There has been repaid into the Exchequer on account of King Leopold's annuity 36,000*l.* Last year 146,392*l.* was expended on account of the abolition of slavery, —84,762*l.* as bounty on slaves, 15,150*l.* to the commissioners to prevent traffic in slaves, and 46,184*l.* bills drawn on account of captured slaves.

Mr. Beresford, the Secretary at War, in a speech at an agricultural meeting at Castle Hedingham, on the 12th, denied that the present is a Protectionist Government. He said:—"It has been said, and I say untruly said, that her Majesty's Government came into office upon the principles of Protection; and that, having come in upon those principles, they have adopted the tenets of their adversaries, and have seized hold of, and are ready to carry out, all the dogmas of Free-trade. I deny that position *in toto*. I know no reason that any man has to say that the Government are Free-traders; and I deny the other position also, that they did come in in the slightest degree upon the principles of Protection. That is a strange thing for us to say, but it is not the less true. There were causes which operated and produced it; but for one whole year preceding our assumption of office, we did not as a party, nor did any individual acknowledged as a leader of that party, bring forward one single motion in which Protectionist measures were in the slightest degree involved. How then can it be said that we came in upon the principles of Protection?" Then he explained how they came in. "We came in at the command of her Majesty, to support her in her just prerogative, and not to allow the official business of the country to be thrown into the hands of Sir James Graham and his Irish associates, or of Mr. Cobden and the Manchester school. Therefore, I say, we honestly and truly may declare that the first proposition which was advanced is unfounded and unjust. We did not come in upon Protectionist principles, or upon a Protectionist motion; but we came in to do the duty of the country at the bidding of our Sovereign; and while that Sovereign and the country uphold us, we are determined to fulfil those duties; and the country, I believe, is fully satisfied with the manner in which they have been performed up to the present moment." He admitted that "considerable advantages had flowed from the adoption of Free-trade" to "many interests," always excepting "the agricultural class." He thought all the evil might have been prevented by the adoption of a "fixed duty on corn." Lord Derby, "even late in the present session," thought so too; but he had thought it more fair to abide by the verdict of the constituencies. "That verdict has been taken. But by the office, if I may call it so, or rather by the situation which I filled so long for that party, I am, alas! too well acquainted with the lists, majorities and minorities, of the House of Commons, not to be able, in taking up a list of the Parliament which has just been returned, to perceive that there is a decided majority of members in the Lower House inimical to the feeling and the measure of protection to agriculture." He asked whether it would be wise "to force that forward when you can gain no advantage." "They say—it is a Scriptural phrase—that it is useless 'to kick against the pricks'; and I firmly believe that in this instance, if we were to stir this question, and to moot it in an unfortunate moment, we should only throw further back the interest of those for whom we would make any sacrifice. There are other interests in the country, some of them nearly as high, others higher still, which would be endangered if we were to moot the question of Protection when we cannot attain it. Are we to run the risk of sacrificing the Protestant institutions of the country by bringing in Sir James Graham and his Irish Brigade? Are we to run the risk of bringing the Monarchy itself in peril by bringing in Lord John Russell and the Democratic principle which you have here alluded to?"

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

AN important *Will Cause* has been tried in the Jury Court at Glasgow, in which property of the value of 300,000*l.* was involved. The wills in dispute were those of the late Mr. Adam Gilmour, a merchant of Glasgow, who was the architect of his own fortunes, and by his exertions and integrity had amassed an enormous fortune in business there, from which he retired shortly before his death, taking a very large capital. By a testamentary disposition made in 1833, he bequeathed the bulk of his fortune to his nephew and heir-at-law, Mr. Adam Gilmour, jun., merchant, the plaintiff in this suit. In 1848, shortly before his death, the testator executed another deed, making the former deed null, and settling his property on another nephew, Mr. Adam Gilmour, of Portnor, the defendant in this suit. The validity of that disposition was now questioned, and the jury were now called upon to decide—first, whether the testator was in a weak mind and easily imposed upon when he executed it; second, if that deed of 1848 was obtained by fraud, &c. Twenty-two witnesses were examined; after which the plaintiff declined to proceed further with the contest, declaring that he had been actuated by a desire to ascertain the facts, and his honourable feeling dictated the course now of consenting to a verdict for the defendant. The counsel for the defendant bore testimony to the high character and principle which had dictated that step, and the Judge, Lord Robertson, also testified to the high feelings of justice which had dictated such a surrender of the contest, remarking that there were higher considerations in this life than the mere attainment of money. The jury gave a verdict for the defendant on the fourth day of the trial.

An atrocious *Double Murder* has been committed near Aberdeen. A widow named Ross occupied a cottage on a farm; and with her lived a little grandson, six years old. Two persons who were passing at night heard groans from the house, and saw a man quit it carrying a bundle. They informed a constable, and the house was entered. The woman and child lay dead on the floor; the woman's skull had been battered in, and the child had been killed by a blow on the breast; the murders appeared to have been committed by the "heel of a carpenter's common axe." Suspicion fell on Donald Christie, a pensioner, who had been working on the farm, and who had been permitted by the widow to cook his food in her cottage. He was tracked and arrested: there was blood on his clothing, and this and other suspicious circumstances led to his committal. Mrs. Ross obtained a living by feeding swine; she had recently sold some: doubtless the motive of the murderer was to seize this money; to obtain it he killed the woman, and then destroyed the child, who might be a witness against him.

Mr. Robert Jack Watts, who describes himself as an attorney living in Farnival's Inn, Charles Perry, and a youth named Grinsell, have been charged before the Lambeth Magistrate with *Obtaining Money by means of Fraudulent Checks*. Watts got 15*l.* 10*s.* from Mr. Corbett, a publican at Walworth, upon a check drawn by Watts on the London and County Bank; Mr. Corbett having been induced to cash the check at the request of Mr. Gillics, a neighbouring baker; who, again, had desired the publican to give the money on the strength of a false message by young Grinsell, that his father, a respectable man, wished to have it. After getting the cash, the three prisoners had a feast at a tavern, which ended in the locking up of Watts and Perry for drunkenness. The check was worthless—Watts had no account at the bank. In another case, Watts got goods and change from a law-stationer by means of a similar fraudulent check. Perry said he had formerly been clerk to Watts, and he professed ignorance of the fraud. Grinsell protested that the only wrong he did was giving his father's name without authority. All three were remanded, but Perry and Grinsell were admitted to bail.

Garrotte Robberies are becoming very frequent at Leeds. Two men have been committed for trial for a most desperate outrage of that kind. Mr. Hartley, a young merchant, was attacked by two men at midnight,

at Hunslet Moor, a lonely place in the vicinity of the town; though he resisted gallantly, he was held by the throat, beaten, kicked, bitten in the hand, and eventually overpowered; when the ruffians rifled his pockets, and ran away. Mr. Hartley's trousers were actually torn to ribands in the efforts of the robbers to get at his pockets.

Mr. Saville Morton, the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, has lost his life by the hand of a brother-journalist, Mr. Bower of the *Morning Advertiser*. The circumstances attending this lamentable event are given by the last-mentioned paper, from the information of the unfortunate survivor. Mr. Bower resided, with his wife and children, in the Rue de Seze; Mr. Morton, who was unmarried, lived in the same quarter, and the gentlemen were on intimate terms. Some months ago, Mr. Morton's attentions to Mrs. Bower having excited some suspicions in her husband's mind, he forbade Mr. Morton his house; but they were reconciled, and their former intercourse was renewed. Mrs. Bower, the mother of four children, was lately confined, and her suffering brought on fits of mental derangement. In her delirium—which was so violent as to threaten to terminate fatally every hour for several days—she expressed so vehement a wish to see Mr. Morton that the physicians advised Mr. Bower, whatever his private feelings might be on the subject, to allow her to have her own way, thinking that Mr. Morton's presence might have the effect of subduing the extreme violence of her manner. Mr. Bower, under the circumstances, acquiesced in the wishes of the physician, and Mr. Morton came to his house, entered the apartment of Mrs. Bower, and remained by her bedside, with a few brief intervals, several days and nights; Mrs. Bower being all this time in a state of dreadful delirium, would receive no attentions nor nursing from any one but Mr. Morton, except in occasional intervals, when she became somewhat more calm. During one of the brief periods of Mr. Morton's absence, Mrs. Bower stated that her last child, born four weeks previously, was not Mr. Bower's but Mr. Morton's. On Mr. Bower's remarking that he ascribed the statement to the illness under which she was labouring, and did not place any faith in it, Mrs. Bower reiterated the assertion with increased emphasis, and said that, as a dying woman, it was true. Mr. Bower observed that, if he could believe it, either Mr. Morton or himself should, in less than an hour, be a dead man. She again energetically declared that the child was Mr. Morton's, not Mr. Bower's, and appealed to the housemaid who happened to be present, whether it was not true that Mr. Morton had slept in the house several nights during Mr. Bower's absence from Paris, about nine months previously. The housemaid said that such was the fact. Mr. Bower then retired into the dining-room, where arrangements had been made for a hurried meal, when unfortunately, while Mr. Bower's brain, according to his own statement, was maddened by what he had heard, Mr. Morton entered the room. Mr. Bower immediately put the question to him whether the horrible avowal of his wife was true. Mr. Morton made no reply—neither admitted nor denied the charge, but that instant rushed out of the room. Mr. Bower snatched up a knife which was lying on the table, and rushed after Mr. Morton, overtaking him as he had reached the fourth or fifth stair, and making a deep wound in the neck, which cut the jugular vein. Mr. Morton fell that instant, and never spoke a word, or even uttered a groan. Mr. Bower, acting on the advice of a relative who was in the house at the time, hurriedly put on an overcoat which was lying beside him, and, through the aid of a female servant, escaped by a back passage. The police were instantly on the alert, but their pursuit was unsuccessful, and he reached England. It is stated that the Procurer of the Republic, after reviewing the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Morton, has come to the resolution not to take any steps against Mr. Bower, unless the family of Mr. Morton should meddle in the affair. The grounds upon which he has come to the resolution are said to be, that he feels convinced that no French jury would convict a man who had received the provocation Mr. Bower received, and who suddenly slew his adversary while under the influence of that provocation.

The servant of Mr. Bower, who was arrested for having facilitated his flight, has been released. Mrs. Bower was removed to a *Maison de Santé*, where she remained in a state of insanity, but she has since recovered and come to England. She is described as a lady of exceedingly amiable manners, as well as of great accomplishments, while her demeanour in society has always accorded with the most rigid views of female propriety.

James Taylor, Esq., banker, of Birmingham, committed *Suicide* at Brighton on the 8th inst. Mr. Taylor, who was 71 years of age, had gone to Brighton about a month ago for the benefit of his health, as he had been unwell for some months past. Since his arrival in Brighton he had been in very low spirits, and on the above afternoon he took a drive with his wife and son, and returned to his residence about five o'clock. He went up stairs, and in a short time after his body fell into the yard behind the house. It was found that he had climbed out of the attic window, and had cut his throat with a razor. A medical man was immediately sent for, but his services were of no avail, the unfortunate man was quite dead. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.

Another dreadful *Aggravated Murder* has been committed in the county of Limerick. The victim was a farmer, by name William Shine, a tenant to the Earl of Dunraven, well known as a most respectable and industrious character, and his only crime it seems was, that he had the temerity to take some land on the adjoining estate of the Rev. William Waller,—land from which some people supposed to be implicated in the murder had been removed. The police were out on patrol the night of Saturday the 9th inst., and on their return towards the village of Adare, about 11 o'clock, they heard voices in loud and angry tones before them. They quickened their pace, and shortly came up to the spot, where they found the body of the unfortunate man, still warm, but life was extinct. They immediately pursued the persons whose voices had been heard, and succeeded in capturing six or seven individuals, who are now in custody, and on whom strong suspicion rests. This murder was committed within a stone's throw of the village of Adare, and not ten yards from a respectable house by the roadside.

An inquest has been held on the body of James Deegan, the private of the Thirty first Regiment, who was *Murdered* near Fermoy, on the 21st ult. Private John Thompson, his comrade, gave an account of the assault which ended in Deegan's death; but Thompson himself was so much hurt and confused that his story is barely intelligible. As far as can be gathered from his evidence, it would appear that Thompson and Deegan went to Ballyhooley, a village near Fermoy, to see a policeman there, an acquaintance of Deegan. On their return in the evening, they went into a public-house kept by Widow McGrath, to light a pipe; and while they were there, several men came in, hustling the soldiers, and evidently trying to pick a quarrel. By the exertions of the widow, however, the intruders were persuaded to go out; the door was barred, and something was probably said about the soldiers' remaining all night. However, they pushed on, determined to get to barracks. But they had not gone far before Deegan was struck on the head by a stone. He remonstrated with the assailants, eight or ten in number. Thompson seems to have been separated from his comrade, and both appear to have crouched down to avoid the stones. Ultimately, we find Thompson helping Deegan out of a "hole;" the assailants moving off, Thompson and Deegan walking back to Mrs. McGrath's, but unable to get the door opened. They were again attacked, and Deegan was knocked down; Thompson lying down out of the way. When he got up he found his comrade speechless; and returning to barracks, he himself was found to be very seriously cut in the face. There was no other witness of the assault. A man named Fitzgerald, deposed that he found the body in the yard, and gave the alarm. Another witness, lodging at Mrs. McGrath's, saw the slight scuffle which took place in the public-house; but he heard no stone-throwing, or rapping at the door afterwards. The surgeon of the Thirty-first stated that Deegan had died of a punctured wound

in the nape of the neck, which severed the spinal cord. Deegan had with him a sword-cane, which had been given to him by Constable Rice, and it was found bent beside the body. Under these perplexing circumstances, the jury found a verdict of "wilful murder against some person or persons unknown." The inhabitants of Fermoy have resolved, that they view with "disgust, detestation, and abhorrence" the assassins of Deegan; and the officers of the Thirty-first, and neighbouring gentlemen, have offered large rewards for their conviction.

James Cannon, a chimney sweep, a notorious ruffian, has been committed for trial, at the Lambeth Police Court, on the charge of *Assaulting* Michael Dwyer, a policeman. Cannon had been fighting in the street, and the policeman, coming up and finding him covered with blood, offered to take him to a surgeon to get his wound dressed. He consented, and walked away with Dwyer, but all at once attacked him, threw him down, and kicked and stamped on him with the most savage ferocity. Dwyer got above him, and endeavoured to hold his hands; but, from his great strength, was obliged to let him get up. The fellow then ran his head against Dwyer with great force, and at the same time catching his legs, gave him a desperate fall on his back, and again began kicking him brutally. The policeman again got to his legs; and at this time he heard some one in the crowd exclaim, "Well done, Cannon, give it the —." Hearing this name, and knowing the man to be a desperate fellow, Dwyer, for the first time, drew his truncheon to defend himself; and kept his assailant at bay till another policeman came up, by whose assistance the ruffian was at length mastered. It required the united strength of seven constables to convey him to the station-house. This outrage was perpetrated in the midst of a crowd of two or three thousand persons, not one of whom would assist the policeman, though he repeatedly called for help. The poor policeman appears to be injured for life. He was one of the finest young men of his division; but, when he appeared in the police-court, his appearance was so altered that he could scarcely be recognised. He was bent double, and his haggard looks showed the intensity of his sufferings. Cannon, who behaved with the greatest insolence, was fully committed; the magistrate observing, that it could hardly have been supposed that, in a civilised country, such a scene could have occurred, and have been carried on for half-an-hour, in the presence of thousands, without a single individual going forward to assist a man so seriously injured. It appears that Cannon, during the last ten years, has been committed twenty times for brutal assaults, chiefly on police officers. On the 26th, Cannon was tried on a second indictment for assaulting William Thorne, the police-constable, who assisted Dwyer. The indictment for assaulting Dwyer had been withdrawn from these sessions, it being the intention of the Treasury to indict Cannon at the Central Criminal Court for the attempt to murder Dwyer.—The prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge of assaulting Thorne, and was sentenced to two years' hard labour in Wandsworth House of Correction. Cannon was tried at the Central Criminal Court for the assault on Dwyer, and found guilty; but sentence was postponed.

A servant-girl of seventeen, named Jane Collins, has *Murdered* her mistress's child and committed *Suicide*. She was in the service of Mr. Elliott, a cigar-manufacturer at Mile-End; two children slept with her—an infant twelve months old, and a girl of four. On the morning of the 11th, Mrs. Elliott, receiving no answer when she called the girl, went to her room; the elder child was crying, and the infant was lying on the bed dead—apparently strangled. Jane Collins was not in the room. There was a pool of blood in the wash-house, and an open razor lying on the floor; drops of blood were traced upstairs to a loft; and there, in a small lumber-hole, the girl's corpse was found: there were cuts on the throat, and an apron-string was tightly twisted round it. At the sitting of the coroner's jury, a surgeon stated that the girl had died from strangulation, and not from the wounds on the throat, which were merely superficial. Witnesses deposed that she had not exhibited any signs of insanity; but she was passionate

at times, and she was in the habit of saying, "If my mother was to die, I should cut my throat!" and she had also repeatedly exclaimed, "When I am in a passion, I should kill the child, and then cut my own throat!"

A gentleman named Henry Joseph Bradfield committed *Suicide* on the 11th inst., in the coffee-room of the St. Alban's Hotel, Charles-street, St. James's, by swallowing prussic acid. He had been a magistrate in the West Indies, had been dismissed with other magistrates, had afterwards gone to Barbadoes as Colonial Secretary, and had for some time been in much distress, believing himself the victim of maltreatment by the Colonial Office. An inquest was held on his body, and a verdict of Temporary Insanity was returned.

Many persons have been lately summoned before the police courts for *Taking in Lodgers without observing the regulations in the Common Lodging-House Act*. Cases of this description were disposed of at Bow-street, Clerkenwell, and Southwark, on the 11th and 12th inst. The parties summoned were lodging-house keepers, and persons who rented rooms for the purpose of subletting. Frightful descriptions were given by the Police Inspectors of the condition of these places, and the people who occupied them. In a house in Wyld Court, all the lodgers were realising a profit by under-letting, and one of them, who paid only 2s. 9d. for his room, made upwards of 8s. per week out of the wretched creatures whom he huddled together nightly on the floor. In a house in Charlotte Court, Gray's Inn Lane, there was a room rented by a Mrs. Barnett, in which the Inspector found three beds: in the first were the woman herself, her son six years old, her brother, a man of thirty-five, two girls of twelve and nine, the brother's children, and another girl of nine. In the second bed was a man. The third bed was on a chest at the side of the others, and contained a man, who said he paid Mrs. Barnett 4d. per week. The room was in a most filthy state, swarming with vermin, and encumbered with a quantity of old wood which left a space of about 7 feet by 4, in which space the first-mentioned beds were on the floor. The beds consisted of a quantity of dirty shavings, and the stench was horrible. Several houses in Mint-street, Southwark, occupied by Joanna Adams, James Baxter, C. Bryan, and Catherine Leary, were visited between two and three in the morning. In Adams's house the Inspector saw, in one bed-room, five bedsteads, each containing two men, and for which they paid 1s. 6d. a week each. There were ten men in this room, seven being the number allowed by the act. Another bed-room contained three beds; the first bed had a man and his wife and a lad of fifteen in it; the second bed contained two single young women; and the third bed was occupied by a married couple. The sergeant added that there was no partition of any kind in the rooms, so as to secure separation of the sexes. The house was registered, and the defendant had been previously furnished with a copy of the regulations, which were read to her; and in order that no mistake might arise, each bed-room in the house had a ticket, upon which was marked down the number of persons allowed to sleep there.—The adjoining house, occupied by Baxter, was next visited; and in one room, in which there were three beds, the Inspector found the first bed occupied by a married couple and a boy of thirteen years of age; in the second bed there was a single woman, and in the third there was a man. Another room had two beds in it; in the first bed a man and his wife were sleeping; the second bed was occupied by a woman and a boy. On leaving Baxter's house, the Inspector went to that of Bryant, and in one room saw three beds, one of which was occupied by a married couple and an infant; the second bed, by a woman; and the third, by a son and daughter, both grown up. Another bed-room contained three beds, in the first of which were a woman and infant; the second bed had two men, and the third a woman and her daughter. There was no partition. He then descended to an underground kitchen, in which directions had been previously given not to admit lodgers, and he found Bryant and his wife and daughter sleeping upon the floor, with no covering over them but a rag; they had no bed of any kind. At a little distance from them another man and woman were also lying on the floor in the same condition. There was no partition. Catherine Leary's

house was next visited, and in a bed-room containing two beds, the first was occupied by a man and his wife, and the second bed by another married couple. There was no partition. In all the cases the parties had been furnished with the regulations as to the number of lodgers, and the partitions to separate the sections, and in some cases the lodgings had been registered. In some of the worst cases mitigated fines were imposed; in others, judgment was suspended on the parties promising to give up their rooms, or discontinue the practice of under-letting them, except in compliance with the regulations. The Bow-street magistrate inquired of the Police Inspector if the result of his proceedings in various parts of the metropolis had been satisfactory? The Inspector stated that there had been a manifest improvement in the lodging-houses of Church-lane. The rooms were not so crowded, and the water had been laid on in several of them. It remained to be seen, when the Irish, and other labourers returned from the country (where they were hopping, &c.), whether the reform which had so far resulted from the operations of the act would be of a permanent character. There were at present as many as 18,000 duly registered lodging-houses, in which the new regulations were observed. Mr. Henry.—What becomes of the lodgers, usually, when they are cleared out of these places? I suppose they go into other districts, and overwork them in the same way? The Inspector said, this was undoubtedly one of the consequences of the measures taken by him and his brother officers under the new act. But in Spitalfields, and some other parts of London, good clean lodgings, with beds and proper partitions, might be obtained for 2½d. or 3d. each. Mr. Henry.—It would be a great boon to the poor if such cheap accommodation could be extended all over London.

A *Gang of Coiners* have been discovered in Southwark. On the 14th, George Minns, a costermonger, Thomas Kelly, a compositor, William Fisher, a carpenter, and two women named Sophia Field, and Mary Ann Brown, were charged at the Southwark Police Court with being found in a house in Unicorn-court, Kent-street, engaged in the manufacture of counterfeit coin. A police sergeant stated that on the previous afternoon, accompanied by a brother-officer, and a boy, he went to the house, the door of which leading to the court was open. The boy then walked upstairs and knocked at the door of a back room on the first floor, and a voice from within called out, "Who's there?" The boy answered, "It's all right," upon which the door, which was barred and bolted, was undone, and the two sergeants, who rushed into the room, saw the prisoners sitting round the fireplace busily engaged, some attending to a pipkin filled with hot metal, while others were employed in arranging plaster of Paris moulds for the reception of metal, to strike off counterfeit halfcrowns, shillings, and sixpences. Before the officers had time to make a seizure of the whole of the implements, the prisoners dashed down on the hearth several plaster of Paris moulds, and smashed them to pieces. In Kelly's possession was found a mould, with a genuine halfcrown in it, and several counterfeit halfcrowns and shillings were picked up off the floor, all of which were quite hot, showing that they had been recently manufactured. Among the various articles used by the prisoners, several bottles containing spirits of wine and other liquids, together with pounded plaster of Paris, files, small hammers, and moulds for making different coins to imitate the current coin of the realm, were discovered in the room, and were produced in court for the magistrate's inspection. Some broken spoons were also discovered, made of metal of a white description, from which it was inferred that the prisoners used it instead of that of which publicans' pots are composed, and which is generally the kind of metal from which the chief portion of the counterfeit money is made. Fisher made an attempt to escape, by rushing out of the room downstairs, but was overtaken and secured. The woman Field, who had her bonnet and shawl on when the officers entered the room, asserted her innocence of being engaged in coining, said that she lived over in Shoreditch, and that she only came thence to see the prisoners, and to be shown the way in which they made the counterfeit money. The magistrate said

he would commit them all for trial, but ordered them to be brought up again, in order to have the authorities of the Mint present.

A case, *Important to Emigrants*, was tried on the 15th at the Bow County Court. It was an action brought by Matthew Smith, an emigrant, to recover 50*l.* as compensation in damages for breach of contract on the part of defendant, Mr. Gumm, an emigrant agent. The particulars in which the contract was broken, and the sufferings and privations resulting therefrom, appeared from the plaintiff's evidence. He deposed that in the month of July he went to Mr. Gumm's office in St. Katharine's Dock, and agreed there to pay 17*l.* 10*s.* for passage to New York for himself, his wife, and three children in the *Delia Maria*. The vessel was to sail July 25, and he was told that a surgeon would accompany the vessel. He made particular inquiry on this second point, as his wife was advanced in pregnancy. The vessel sailed three days after her time, and he had applied for the legal allowance money, 1*s.* per diem, and was refused. When the ship sailed there was not only no surgeon, but no medicine on board. The vessel was heavily laden with railway iron, so much so that the bull's-eyes were obliged to be kept closed, which stopped all ventilation except from the hatchway and windsail. The weather was not bad. A great many had no berths, as the sea spoiled the beds, as it did also the provisions. Such was the state of the vessel below that the passengers could scarcely breathe. The plaintiff and his family, according to the contract, were entitled to 55 pounds of meat per week. On arriving at Gravesend, he applied for meat, but the captain said they had got none on board. He and others made a complaint to the mayor, but were referred to Captain Lean, the government inspector, who told him he would be on board; but the government inspector never visited the vessel, and she sailed from Gravesend the same night. The captain wanted to alter the contract, to strike out the meat, and put on more flour and bread. The plaintiff was for nine days without any meat, and on arriving at Gravesend he had 55 pounds of meat (He here produced a sample of the pork.) It was unfit for human food, and some of the passengers threw it overboard. The flour was also very bad. He subsequently showed the meat to the government inspector, who pronounced it unfit for food. The cook-house was not protected from the weather, and its size was totally inadequate for the number of passengers. When the plaintiff got to Plymouth he declined going on, as they could not eat the meat; but the captain refused to let him go unless he signed a paper to exonerate him (the captain), the crew, and broker. The vessel got to Plymouth on Saturday, and he signed the paper on Monday, as he was afraid the vessel would sail. He would have signed anything rather than go on. About ten passengers left the vessel at Plymouth: one threatened to jump overboard. The plaintiff was compelled to pawn two watches to bring himself and family to London. Upon applying at the defendant's office, they were told to do what they pleased. The plaintiff's evidence was confirmed by that of several other passengers. The defence was that the vessel had been properly fitted out, and had passed the examination of the government emigration officer. Mr. John Foster, the assistant government emigration officer, deposed that he had made the survey of the vessel required by the act of parliament; that he had examined the provisions, and considered them good, and sufficient in quantity. On cross-examination, he said he had never been employed in examining emigrant vessels previous to May last. Captain Lean, the emigration officer for London, was examined and produced the document permitting the vessel to sail, called the clearing certificate. He said he certainly would not pass the pork or flour produced. Mr. Gumm, the defendant, was himself examined. He said he had been a ship-broker twenty-three years, and had personally nothing to do with the supply of the vessel, having directed Mr. Ford, the provision-merchant in the Minories, to supply such provisions as would pass the survey. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 40*l.*

A most *Brutal Murder* has been committed in the vicinity of Swords, a village a few miles to the north of Dublin. The victims were an old man, named Patrick

Smith, about 70 years of age, and his sister Margaret, still older and nearly bed-ridden. They resided together in a house situated on a small farm, and remote from any other dwelling; and it is certain that the crime was committed by some persons who expected that the old pair had accumulated a little money, especially as it had been rumoured that the son of Patrick Smith had on his death, a short time since, left his father some money and a watch. The police received intelligence of this deed on the 14th inst. The scene, on entering the cabin, presented a truly awful appearance, the corpses being extended before the hearth, at which they had evidently been sitting when the murderers entered. Upon the floor, with her feet towards the fire, lay the woman, with a fractured skull; and across her body lay that of her brother, with two wounds upon the back of his head. Behind the door stood the instrument of death, the heavy wooden bar of the door, upon which was a quantity of blood and human hair. In the inner room the furniture had been pulled about, and one of the boxes broken open evidently by parties in quest of plunder; the lining of one of the pockets of the unfortunate victim's trowsers was partially turned out, but the search was evidently hasty and ineffectual, as in an inner pocket money was found, as also upon the person of the female. Two young men were arrested on suspicion; but at the inquest there was no evidence against them, and they were liberated; the jury finding a verdict of wilful murder against persons unknown.

An important decision, *Overturning the regulation of a Railway Company as to Cabs which ply at the Station*, has been given by the magistrate of the Southwark Police Court. A gentleman called a cab within the gates of the Brighton Railway terminus at London Bridge; the driver declined to take him as a fare, as it was not his turn; the company had ordered, for public convenience, they allege, that the cabs in the station should be hired in rotation, so that there shall be no confusion created by a number of vehicles driving off at the same moment. The gentleman summoned the cabman; and the company took the matter up. Their counsel urged that the cabs within the terminus gates are not hackney carriages within the meaning of the act of Parliament; that the cabman was not plying for hire; and that the terminus was not such a public place as the act contemplated. The magistrate pronounced against the validity of all the pleas: to admit the last would be very inconvenient to the company itself, for if a driver were not amenable at a terminus for one offence, he would not be for others—abuse, extortion, or other misconduct. Mr. A'Beckett pointed out that railway companies assume another right to interfere with the act, by recommending passengers to pay certain extra rates for luggage, as otherwise the charge is "discretionary" with the cabman; whereas the law distinctly says that cabmen shall not charge for luggage at all. As there had been an obstinate continuance at the terminus in violating the law, in spite of previous complaints, Mr. A'Beckett fined the driver forty shillings.

At the Middlesex Sessions on the 18th, Richard Burnell, an old man, was indicted for having unlawfully obtained from Ann Edwards a sovereign and a half sovereign with intent to *Defraud her*. It appeared that the prosecutrix is a hardworking woman, residing in Montpelier-row, Brompton, and in the month of June last, the prisoner came to her house and asked for a lodging. She told him that she had a room to let, but as she did not like his looks "she told him that she did not take in gentlemen lodgers. He then said, "Oh, you only take in females;" and she replied that that was so. He then asked what rent the room was, and she named double the amount she would have asked anybody else, and he went away saying, "She would hear from him on a future occasion." On the 30th of June he called again and said, "That he was Richard Burnell, agent to the Society for the Protection of Women, at Westminster, and that he had an indictment against her for keeping a disorderly house." She told him that she did not keep a house of the sort, but he said it was of no use her denying it, and that the Rev. Mr. Harness and the parish authorities had taken the matter up. He himself,

however, could stop the proceedings or let them go on. The prosecutrix was then induced to give him a sovereign to stop the proceedings, and said she would give him more money in the course of the week. Although her lodgers were most well-behaved women she was so frightened that she afterwards parted with them. The prisoner returned again in about a fortnight, and asked for more money, which she was not able to give him, and subsequently her suspicions being excited as to his character, and his importunities becoming so intolerable, she procured a warrant, under which he was apprehended. The prisoner declared that the charge was got up against him, and that he had never received a penny from the prosecutrix. He maintained that he had a right to put down the house, and that he had been employed by Mr. Harness and others to do so, and had succeeded in putting down other disreputable houses, while he continued to asperse the character of the prosecutrix. No evidence of the truth of his statements, however, was brought forward. The Assistant-Judge said the prisoner was about the most notorious rogue in London. He lived by this infamous system of fraud and extortion. He had been convicted twice. On one occasion he was transported, and on another he was sentenced to a year's hard labour. It was impossible that a gentleman like Mr. Harness could be mixed up with such a person. The prisoner maintained that he had been employed in the way he had stated. The Assistant-Judge said he certainly recollected a case in which the prisoner was employed by a parish, but a pretty mess the parochial officers got into in consequence. He then sentenced the prisoner to one year's hard labour.

At the same Sessions, Frank Fripp, a private in the 1st Life Guards, was indicted for *Assaulting a Police Constable* in the execution of his duty. It appeared that between two and three o'clock on the morning of the 4th inst., the defendant was quarrelling with a young woman in Chapel-street, Brunswick-square, thereby creating a disturbance. The officer on duty interposed, but the defendant persisted, and at length struck the woman, who was trying to get away from him. The officer then proceeded to take him in charge, but he struck him on the head and knocked him down. He ran, pursued by the policeman, who, on overtaking him, was again knocked to the ground, and again after that. Assistance arrived, and defendant was lodged at the station-house. The defendant's counsel said he was instructed to appear by the officers of the defendant's regiment, the defendant's character being an irreproachable one. The result would be to him, if convicted and imprisoned, one of complete ruin as a soldier; and he (the learned counsel) hoped that if the defendant was found guilty the Court would impose a fine, and not pass a sentence of imprisonment. If this course was to be adopted he would at once admit that the defendant struck the officer; but if it was not, he should have to call evidence that would give a different complexion to the case. The jury found the defendant guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy. Captain Hogg said the defendant's conduct had been very good during the time he had been in his troop—two years. He was a good, attentive soldier. The Assistant-Judge (Serjeant Adams) said this case showed the advantage of a good character to a man. Had the defendant borne but an indifferent reputation, the officer of his regiment would not have come forward in his behalf. Would the defendant promise never to do the like again? The defendant said he would take care of that. The Assistant-Judge then imposed a fine of 20s.

An attempt has been made to *Burke* a young woman at Yarmouth, named Mary Ann Proudfoot. She was found at night by the wall of a mill, all but suffocated; her clothes were torn, and there were marks of a struggle on her person; while over her face was fastened a plaster made of pitch and tar. She stated that the man who had beaten her and placed the plaster over her mouth was Samuel Howth, a coal-porter, by whom she was with child. She was a servant in the family of the merchant who employed Howth. The meeting was sought by Howth on pretence of providing money for the woman's lying-in. Howth was apprehended by the police, and examined by the magistrates

on the 19th. He is a man of forty, with a wife and family. Mary Ann Proudfoot is thirty-six; she has had two illegitimate children. Her appearance produced a sensation of horror in the court. Her head and face were swollen to nearly twice their original size; the features appeared to be completely destroyed, the face presenting a blackened pulpy mass, produced by fearful blows inflicted by some blunt instrument while on the ground. She was greatly exhausted and almost bent double. From the poor creature's evidence and that of other witnesses, it appears that the plaster was a very large one, sufficient to cover the face, head, and neck; it was made of Stockholm pitch and coal-tar spread on canvass. The woman stated that she tore off the plaster when Howth first threw it over her face; but he replaced it. Her screams brought persons to the spot in time to save her life. At Howth's house a kettle was found containing tar and pitch, and a piece of canvass similar to that used for the plaster. One of his hands had a smear of tar upon it. A brace was found near the woman; Howth had but one brace to his trousers when arrested. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

Another shocking *Aggravated Murder* has been committed in the King's County. The victim was William Manifold, Esq., of Annaghmore, near Frankford, the agent to Captain Morris, over some property recently purchased in the Encumbered Estates Court. The tenantry refused to atone over to the new proprietor, which rendered legal proceedings necessary to compel them. Consequently processes were issued against them, and decrees obtained at the last Tullamore quarter sessions. It was not the intention of Captain Morris or his ill-fated agent to evict any of the tenantry who submitted to the decrees. On returning from the sessions court on the evening of the 19th in a gig, in which was also his friend Mr. Dyas, a miscreant climbed up behind the vehicle so stealthily that no suspicion of his presence was created in the mind of either gentleman, and he discharged a pistol into the back of the head of Mr. Manifold, whose death was instantaneous. Of course the assassin fled. Mr. Dyas, seeing the fate of his companion, jumped out of the gig and ran towards the station; but on his arrival there only one man of the party was in the barracks, the others being out on patrol. So soon as the party returned they proceeded towards the place where the murder had been committed, and on their way thither they met the horse and gig going slowly along the road, with the body of the ill-fated gentleman in it, still seated, but leaning backwards. Mr. Manifold was a gentleman of very kind habits and disposition. He had been but two years married, and he has left a widow and one child. It was to instruct the attorney as to the necessary processes that Mr. Manifold had been to Tullamore. He had the papers connected with the affair in his gig-box. He had also a sum of 47l. in his pocket, and none of these were taken.

A *Dreadful Murder* was perpetrated at Bristol in the night of the 19th inst. The victim was a well-conducted married woman, the mother of four children, named Ellen Spear, the wife of a shoemaker named John Spear. The husband was frequently given to habits of drinking, and being unable to procure some money from his wife for such a purpose, took two of her dresses and pledged them to procure the means of obtaining more liquor. He was drinking in a tap-room when his wife came in, having an infant in her arms, and requested him to return home. At the same time she upbraided him for having pawned her dresses for drink. He refused to go home, upon which the wife said that if he would persist in his habits of drinking she would commence them too, and that if he drank beer she would drink rum. She did not, however, call for any. He again abused her, and having a piece of broken tobacco-pipe in her hand, she threw it at him, upon which he got up, and placing one hand on her shoulder, with the other made a thrust at the lower part of her person, and immediately resumed his seat. The poor woman having uttered a single scream, fell forward on the floor, and it was instantly seen by the persons in the room that she had been stabbed. She bled profusely. A surgeon was sent for, who arrived within a few minutes, but too late to be of any avail, as the unfor-

tunate woman was already dead from profuse hemorrhage. No one having seen anything in the husband's hand, it was not for the moment known with what instrument the injury had been inflicted; but upon his being taken into custody an open long-bladed clasp knife, covered with blood, was found under the seat upon which he had been sitting.—An inquest has since been held, when, after a brief deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against John Spear, who was committed to take his trial at Gloucester at the next assizes.

Sir James Rivers, Bart., was charged before the Bath magistrates, on the 19th with *Assaulting* two of the officials in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company. The complainants were Isaac Crew, a railway porter, and Samuel Haines, a railway policeman, the latter of whom appeared with his hand bound up. It appeared that on the previous Saturday, Sir James Rivers drove to the Bath Railway Station in a dog-cart, with a pair of horses, and pulled up to await the arrival of the seven o'clock train, upon the ground usually occupied by the omnibuses. The complainant, Crew, subsequently went up to him and requested him to remove, so that the omnibuses might get in, at the same time pointing out to him the place set apart for private carriages. Sir James replied that he should not move to please anybody, at the same time using abusive language, and telling witness that it was Saturday night, and that he was drunk. Crew left, but as the omnibuses were arriving, presently went again to defendant and told him he must please to move, and at the same time he put his hand on the hind part of one of the horses. Sir James immediately struck him violently across the hand with his whip, and swore that he wished he had hit his hand off. The other complainant, Haines, afterwards went to defendant, and requested him to move, as he was occupying the place of the omnibuses. Defendant said he would not move for any policeman, and, after repeating his request, the witness laid hold of the horses' bits to lead them on. Sir James immediately stood upon the box and lashed the horses furiously for the purpose of riding over the policeman, who said that had he not been accustomed to horses, and pushed those of defendant back into the breaching every time they reared, he must have been thrown back and rode over. Finding himself unable to drive the horses over the policeman, Sir James leaned over the splash-board and belaboured him across the head, shoulders, and hands, with the butt-end of his whip. The policeman then let go his hold, and afterwards, whilst standing on the steps leading to the railway station, the defendant came up and struck him a violent blow in his stomach with his fist. He had been unable to attend to his duties since the assault from the injuries he had received, and had spit blood ever since. For the defence, it was stated that Sir James had been provoked to the assaults, his servant stating that the policeman put his hand on Sir James's breast before he (Sir James) struck him on the stomach. The Magistrates at once fined Sir James 50s. and costs for the first assault, or one month's imprisonment in default. For the second assault 5l., or two months' imprisonment. The Mayor commented severely on such conduct in a person of Sir James's rank. The fines were at once paid.

The case of the Rev. Robert Whiston, head-master of Rochester school, has been decided by the Bishop of Rochester. Mr. Whiston was removed from the Mastership in 1849, for publishing *Cathedral Trusts and their Fulfilment*, a pamphlet which exposed with searching severity the dealings of the Dean and Chapter of Rochester in certain parts of their administration. The Bishop pronounces the pamphlet "libellous" as regards the Dean and Chapter; but he thinks Mr. Whiston may have been misled by "legal opinions of high authority, though given on erroneous data, upon the main charge against the Dean and Chapter of having illegally taken to themselves a disproportionate share of the revenue of the Cathedral property." Having recorded this opinion, the Bishop reinstates Mr. Whiston in the office of Head Master, on the 1st of next January; on condition that Mr. Whiston "shall have no right or claim against the Dean or Chapter, or any one else, for any profits or emoluments accruing from the 19th day of October, the

day of his removal from the office, up to the 1st of January next,"—the Visitor being of opinion that Mr. Whiston "deserved to be suspended during the time aforesaid." The judgment also cautions Mr. Whiston not to publish any more editions of his pamphlet.

M. Courmet, formerly an officer in the French navy, has been *Killed in a Duel*, at Crown Farm, near Windsor. The duel took place on the afternoon of the 19th, with pistols; a bullet passed through Courmet's body, and he died in a few hours. Three foreigners who were concerned in the matter were arrested at Waterloo terminus on returning from Windsor; a fourth was captured when he came with a French surgeon to the inn at Egham whither the wounded man had been conveyed. These men were examined by the Chertsey magistrates on the following day. Their names are Baronet, Alain, Mornay, and Barthélémy. Two long swords were found wrapped up in a cloak in the possession of one of the men arrested in London. There was no evidence to show that either of the accused was the surviving principal in the duel. All were remanded. The inquest was commenced on the 20th. It appeared from the evidence, that six foreigners went to Windsor; four are in custody, one is dead, and the sixth has not yet been traced. No pistols were found on the spot, or in the possession of the prisoners. Many witnesses related how they had seen the men arrive at and pass through Windsor, and what occurred after Courmet had been wounded; but no one pointed out the surviving principal. M. Gustave Nagute, who identified the body, admitted that he knew that his deceased friend was about to fight, in consequence of a political dispute; but this gentleman declined to disclose all he knew—he would bear the consequences of refusing. The Coroner was obliged to place him in the charge of the police. A number of foreigners were brought into the court, but it does not appear that any one could be recognised as the man who is wanted. The four prisoners remain in custody; and the inquest was adjourned to the 26th, on which day the jury found a verdict of wilful murder against them. The cause of the quarrel has not yet been explained.

Thomas Archer, formerly an engine-driver on the South-eastern line, was tried at Maidstone Quarter Sessions, on the 20th, for *Negligently Driving an Engine* on the night of the 26th July, whereby he perilled the lives of passengers and others. The man had himself a narrow escape from death, having been thrown from the engine: he is hardly yet convalescent. On the 26th July, Archer drove a "tidal train" from Folkestone—a very fast train. As he approached Headcorn station, the up-line was blocked up by a "pick-up train" of waggons, put there out of the way of the down mail-train. Into this pick-up train the man drove his train; the collision was violent, but, fortunately, no passenger was fatally hurt. The crash obstructed the down-line with ruins, and the mail train ran into them, altogether producing a terrible scene of confusion. The question for the jury was, did Archer cause the disasters by his negligence? Railway officials asserted that danger-signals were exhibited at the station, and a man was sent forward with a red light; and if Archer had taken heed of these signals there would have been no danger of a collision. The night was rather wet and dark; the engine driven by Archer was a new one, and stiff in working; Archer slackened speed somewhat as he approached the station; no fog-signals were placed on the rails, as would at least have been highly desirable. The station-master at Headcorn has since been reduced to a booking-clerk. The prisoner perilled his own life! he had always been a careful driver. The jury consulted for a considerable time; and then found a verdict of guilty, but with a recommendation to mercy because it was "a very dark night." The culprit was sentenced to prison for six months, but without hard labour, on account of his delicate health.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 25th, William Rex was indicted for *Feloniously Breaking into the Dwelling-house of Mary Lamb*, and stealing several articles, her property. The prosecutrix was a widow, and resided in a cottage at Twickenham. In the evening of Sunday, the 17th inst., she went out, leaving

no one in charge of her cottage, and upon her returning shortly afterwards, she was very much astonished at seeing a light in her bedroom. She gave an alarm to her neighbours, and some of them stationed themselves at the front door and others at the back, and in a short time an attempt was made by some persons inside to open the front door. The people on the outside held the door fast, and an endeavour was made to force it open with a poker from the inside, and finding they could not succeed in doing so, there was a cry of "—your eyes, shoot, fire!" This had the effect of intimidating the persons on the outside, and they retreated a short distance, and two men, one of whom was the prisoner, then rushed out of the house. A man named M'Cree laid hold of the prisoner, who immediately struck him on the arm with a crow-bar, and he succeeded in getting away a short distance, when he was secured, but his companion succeeded in effecting his escape. Upon going into the cottage the bed-room of the prosecutrix was found in a state of great disorder, all her drawers having been ransacked and the contents strewn about, and several skeleton keys were picked up in different parts of the premises. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to be transported for ten years.

A case of *Bigamy*, involving a point of law, was tried at the Central Criminal Court on the 25th. William Henry Powey, gardener, was indicted for feloniously marrying Isabella Graham, his wife being then alive. The first marriage was proved to have taken place on the 30th of June, 1849, at St. Mary's, Crawford-street, Portman-square. Jane Sleaman, the wife of a rope-maker, residing in Edinburgh, stated that the prisoner was married on the 23rd of August, 1851 (having been on a visit for three weeks previously), to her sister, Miss Graham, and after staying a few days with them, and living together as man and wife, sailed for England. They were married by the Rev. Mr. Reed, minister of the United Presbyterian congregation in the Lothian-road. They were married in witness's house: it is the custom in Scotland, and witness had heard that the banns had been proclaimed in the usual way. The clerk to the magistrates of Edgeware produced a copy of the record of the marriage of the prisoner with the second wife; and said that he obtained it from the sessions clerk. Mr. Parry, the defendant's counsel, objected to the admission of the document, contending that it could not be admitted as evidence unless accompanied by a proper certificate of its being legal, and in conformity with the Scottish statutes. The Common Serjeant said that he could not admit such a document as evidence of the marriage. Mr. Parry then, at some length, argued that there was no proof whatever of a second marriage, or if so, not such evidence as his lordship could take cognisance of. His lordship, in his judicial capacity, could only view the law of Scotland as he would one of a foreign country, and in order that he might act upon it the law required that he ought to have in evidence before him and the jury the testimony of some person well studied in the statutes of the particular country whose legislation was the subject of inquiry. He need only remind his lordship of the celebrated Wakefield case of abduction, in which Lord Brougham was engaged; there the most eminent Scotch jurists were examined and cross-examined before the learned judges to prove the then existing state of the law. Here there was not any evidence that the party alleged to have performed the ceremony was authorised to do so, or whether he was recognised as a minister, or whether the usual forms had been complied with to constitute what in Scotland was termed a regular marriage. Mr. Dearsly, in reply, said that for the purposes of the present indictment it mattered not whether it was a regular or irregular marriage. He was aware that when the question of property or descent was at issue it was then necessary that the whole of the forms required by the Scottish law should be complied with, and the marriage be proven a regular one; but this indictment did not require it. And, with regard to the other part of the argument, in "Archbold's Criminal Pleadings by Sir John Jervis," it was laid down that a marriage, if celebrated abroad, may be proved by any person who was present, and circumstances should also be proved

from which the jury may presume that it was a valid marriage according to the custom of the country in which it was celebrated—proof that it was performed by a person appearing and officiating as a priest, and that it was understood by the parties to be according to the rites and customs of the foreign country. The Common Serjeant said it was a case for the jury. The defendant was found guilty, and sentence was postponed.

At the Mansion House, on the 25th, A. Campbell, a Scotchman, was charged with having robbed Michael Barry, a young Irish tailor, of five shillings, the first money ever earned by the industrious boy in this country, in which he has been a very recent importation. The prosecutor said,—The prisoner, who is a tailor as well as myself, lodged in the same room, and before I went to bed about three months ago he pressed me to lend him the money I had, but as I wanted it myself I refused him, and I put it for safety under my head. In the morning I found that my money and my cap were gone, and that the prisoner, who had never got into his bed at all, was off along with them. The landlord of the house in which the prosecutor and the prisoner lodged said—I heard the prisoner ask the lad for the loan of money, and as I knew the poor boy wished to keep his first earnings in England, for good luck, I told my wife to lend Mr. Campbell a shilling, which she did. In the morning we found that the robbery had been committed, and I was told by the magistrate to give the thief into custody whenever I saw him. We never laid eyes on him since till yesterday, and then he was charged, and had the impudence to deny that he was a rogue. The prisoner said that there was not a word of truth in the statement that he had either wanted to borrow or to steal, and that the whole charge was mere spite against him because he refused to stay in the noisy quarter in which he had lately resided. Alderman Hooper: And what did you do with the boy's cap? The prisoner: That was not worth a bawbee. I don't know what became of it. Alderman Hooper (to the prosecutor): What was the cap worth? The prosecutor: A shilling, your honour. Alderman Hooper: We have the prisoner's own acknowledgment that he stole the cap. The prisoner: No, your lordship; I only clapped it on my head for fear of catching cold, as I was leaving the room. (Laughter.) Alderman Hooper: There is no doubt at all that you robbed this poor lad, and if you do not return him the money and pay him for the cap, you shall go to prison for seven days. The prisoner: It's verra hard upon me to have to pay for what I didn't ever receive. I've no objections to pay for the cap, but not the money. Alderman Hooper: Young man, I dare say he will procure the money you have lost; and if so, it shall be sent to you. The prisoner was then locked up.

A shocking case of *Child Murder* has occurred at Barnstaple. A young woman named Eliza Boucher, a servant of Mr. W. Wadham Hill, hairdresser and perfumer, having been delivered of an illegitimate child, afterwards destroyed it by burning it in the washhouse furnace. It appeared that her condition was suspected by her mistress, who taxed her with being enceinte, but the young woman stoutly denied such an insinuation. Discoveries were made, however, which left no doubt of her confinement having taken place, whereupon she was again questioned as to her conduct. She then admitted that she had been confined, and stated that she had thrown the child into the river. Subsequently, however, she said that she had buried it in the ash-pit, and, as if to give a plausibility to her story, she commenced digging herself, as if to bring it out. At length, however, all attempts to conceal the truth failed, and she confessed that she had burnt the infant in the washhouse furnace, where she had kindled a large fire early on the washing morning. She was then of course handed over to the police authorities; but has been too ill to be examined.

An atrocious *Murder* was perpetrated on the morning of the 25th near Stafford, at a house on the road to Wolverhampton, down a secluded lane. The house was occupied by an aged couple named Blackband, who, in addition to the land and buildings adjoining, were also the owners of several fields of land. Naturally penurious, and imagining the safest place for his wealth to be on his own person, Blackband always carried about with him a

large quantity of gold. About eight o'clock information was sent to Stafford that a cottage at Moss Pit was on fire, and engines were immediately despatched to extinguish the devouring element. On breaking open the door of the house the fire was discovered to have originated in one of the bedrooms, but the smoke and flames prevented any one from ascending the staircase. Ladders were immediately procured and holes made in the roof of the building, and the fire-engines having subsequently arrived, the flames were extinguished. On ascending the stairs, the old man and woman were discovered at the further end of the room on a bedstead, still burning. Upon examination, it was discovered that the head of Blackband had been cloven with some heavy weapon, the frontal bone being completely smashed, and the back of the head opened. The body was reduced almost to a cinder with the exception of the head and one of the legs. Across the bottom of the bed lay the burnt trunk of his wife's body, arms and legs being entirely gone. She had received a heavy blow over the right eye. For many years the old couple, through infirmities, had slept apart in different rooms in the house. The stairs to the old man's room ascending from the house-place, and those to his wife's bedroom at a distant part of the dwelling from the pantry. At the bottom of the pantry stairs was a large pool of blood; and it is supposed, that after the murderer had despatched the old man, he proceeded to the other part of the house, where his second victim was descending the stairs, when he immediately dealt the fatal blow which deprived her of life. Having committed this twofold deed, he must have carried her through the house to the bedroom of her husband, and placing her on his bed, have set fire to the clothes, intending to destroy every vestige or mark which would tend to his detection by burning the house and all that it contained; and thus lead to the supposition that the fire was one of accident. The dog, which was kept in the house, was found in the well opposite to the door, a heavy blow on the head having, no doubt, previously deprived it of the power of making any alarm. The murder must have been perpetrated after daylight. At half-past seven o'clock a gentleman passed the house when there was no sign of fire, but he observed a man walking through an adjoining field, as if leaving the house.

In consequence of the excitement produced in Plymouth and the neighbourhood by the practices of the Rev. Mr. Prynne, in regard to *Confession*, the churchwardens of St. Peter's, Eldad, have been under the necessity of applying for the assistance of the police, stones having been thrown at the windows of the church during the time of service.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Railway Accidents have become a regular article of intelligence. Preparatory to the opening of the Birmingham and Oxford line, on the 1st instant, a special train left Paddington at 9 o'clock on the previous morning, carrying the directors and a large party of their friends. Their destination was Birmingham, whence they were to return to Leamington to a grand dinner. At Oxford several ladies and gentlemen entered the train. At this time the ordinary passenger train, due at Banbury at half past ten, was on its way, and stopped at the Aynho road station, about six miles from Banbury, where tickets are taken. While this was being done, the driver of the train observed the special train approaching at a rapid pace. He immediately put his engine in motion, but was unable to get it sufficiently under way to avoid a collision. The crash was very great, and many of the passengers in the second class-carriages were much cut and bruised; the trucks at the end of the train were smashed, and some of the second-class carriages injured. Some of the passengers refused to continue their journey, and left the train; those who remained were brought on to Banbury, and an engine with assistants to raise the disabled one was sent to Aynho, and returned with the special train, which it conveyed onwards to Leamington, where it stopped

without proceeding to Birmingham, as originally intended. A *déjeuner* afterwards took place at Leamington; and the special train reached the Paddington station at one o'clock next morning. Another accident has subsequently taken place on the same line. A passenger-train at night ran into a luggage-train, which had no tail-lights. Several carriages were crushed, and their occupants were more or less hurt: one gentleman suffered from concussion of the brain, which placed his life in danger.

Two accidents occurred on the night of the 4th inst., on branches of the South-eastern Railway. The great fall of rain suddenly washed away earth and rails between Ticehurst and Etchingham, on the Tunbridge Wells and Hastings branch. A train which had passed up three hours before, when the line was perfect, was returning from Tunbridge at night; in the darkness it was not perceived that anything was amiss, and the rails having been moved by the water, the train was turned over on its side. Fortunately, there were no passengers; the guard was unhurt; but the driver and fireman were jammed between the engine and tender. After considerable delay in consequence of the flood, the guard obtained assistance, and they were extricated: the driver had escaped with bruises, but the fireman had one of his thighs fractured.

There was a collision on the Great Northern Railway, and a remarkable escape from fatal consequences, on the same night. Near Newark the line is intersected by the Nottingham and Lincoln Railway, which crosses almost at right angles. As the Great Northern express-train for London arrived at this spot, a Midland goods-train was crossing; the express-train severed the goods-train, hurling one truck into a river, and throwing others off the rails. Though the carriages were much shattered, no passenger was seriously hurt: the driver of the goods-train had two teeth knocked out. It is stated that the signal for the Great Northern train to pass was up, and the driver of the Midland train should not have attempted to cross.

A train proceeding from Hastings to Ashford, on emerging from the Ore tunnel, ran into a body of water which covered the rails, and got off the line. No one was hurt, but the passengers had to return to Hastings, and remain till the following day before the line was passable.

On the morning of Monday the 11th inst., the remains of Jeremiah Dooley, a station-master at Astley, on the Liverpool and Manchester portion of the London and North-Western Railway, were discovered by his wife between that place and Bury-lane station; the head of the unfortunate man having been apparently severed from his body by a train which had passed along the line during the night. He had left the Astley station between 9 and 10 o'clock on Sunday evening, and walked to Bury-lane station, and, after partaking of some ale and spirits at a public house, returned along the line soon after 11 towards his own residence, situate between the two stations. He never reached home, however, and his wife went in search of him early on Monday morning, and found his body on the line as described, the head being rolled to some yards distant. The line had been repaired near where his body was found, and it is conjectured he might have stumbled forward with his head against a rail, whilst passing over some holes left in the road by the men who had repaired it, and becoming insensible had remained there until the train passed over him.

There has been a fatal collision on the railway at Portobello, near Edinburgh. As the mail-train for London was dashing through the station, it came into contact with an engine and tender which stood across the rails, employed in shifting trucks from one siding to another; the locomotive of the mail-train turned the pilot-tender completely over, and threw it on the engine, and then itself mounted on the ruins: the mail tender and carriages kept on the rails. Several passengers were cut and bruised by the collision. A porter who was near the pilot-engine was killed instantaneously, and one of the driver's legs was broken. The driver and stoker of the mail-train were badly scalded and bruised. The mail locomotive had a narrow escape from tilting over the parapet of a bridge fifty feet high.

It is reported that the station-master forsook the danger as the mail-train approached, and asked if signals were up to stop it; a porter said they were; the train still came on, and the station-master sent men forward with hand signals, but without effect.

An alarming *Railway Collision* occurred on the morning of the 25th, while the main train of the London and North-Western line was passing through the Camden-town station. The train left Euston-square about five minutes after 10, and was assisted up the incline by a pilot, which had "hooked off" only a few seconds, when a goods engine improperly attempted to cross the main line at a point just beyond the ticket platform, and striking first the engine of the mail, grazed three or four of the succeeding carriages, and cut the train in two about midway. The collision blocked up both the up and down lines for a considerable period, and the traffic in the early part of the day was consequently much disturbed. The escape of the passengers may be considered most providential, two or three of the carriages having been much shattered, and thrown to a considerable distance. Camden station is well known to all travellers on this great trunk railway to present a perfect labyrinth of rails extending from the Regent's Canal to the Chalk Farm Bridge. Looking northwards on the left is an engine shed, and a long range of repairing shops. Upon the right is the goods and cattle station. In order to keep up a communication between these localities, the main line has to be crossed at a point northward of the ticket platform. There is a standing rule in the company's book of regulations, that no driver shall attempt to cross with his engine without first receiving the proper signal from the pointsmen, of whom there are always two on duty here; the distance between the points being about 150 yards. There is too much reason to fear that an infringement of this salutary rule on the part of the driver of the goods engine occasioned the present disaster. There was some difficulty in extricating the occupants of the carriage resting on its beam ends, but this was at length accomplished, and the passengers having taken their places in the uninjured carriages, were brought back to Euston-square, where the train was re-made up, and despatched shortly after eleven o'clock, the passengers, with very few exceptions, continuing their journeys. The Marchioness of Anglesey and the Bishop of Lichfield were in the train, and they were also among the passengers who went on at eleven o'clock. One of the foreign Ministers, resident at this court, with his wife, did the same. The only passengers at all injured, as far as could be ascertained, are Lady Blayney, who being considerably shaken, preferred remaining at the "Euston" a few hours before continuing her journey; a Mr. Daere, of Stone-buildings, who sustained a slight incised wound on the ear; and a Mr. and Mrs. Matis, who have since left London. It is stated that the engine-driver and his firemen are under the surveillance of the Company's police.

The American ship *Mobile*, bound from Liverpool to New Orleans, was *Wrecked* off the Blackwater Bank, near Wexford, during the storm on the morning of the 29th ult. The ship went to pieces immediately after she struck. There were nearly sixty passengers, and a crew of twenty-three. Of these only eight sailors and one passenger escaped; they lashed themselves into the channel bends, and were rescued by two passing schooners. The survivors state, that being favoured with a fair wind, the *Mobile* pursued her course at a rapid rate, and at midnight the captain went below, leaving the second mate in charge, with strict injunctions to steer West-south-west, and to see that the captain was called at two o'clock, or sooner, if the weather assumed a more threatening aspect. The wind at the time the captain went below was blowing a fresh breeze from East-north-east, with a heavy sea, which increased to a violent gale; he was, however, not called until two o'clock. On coming on deck, the captain inquired whether the ship had been steered as he ordered, and then found that the second mate had misunderstood the orders given to him, and had ordered her to be kept on a west-north-west course which had carried her directly on a lee shore, from which it was found impossible to extricate her, although every human effort was made.

During a late storm at Sutton Valence in Kent, some twenty hop-pickers sought refuge in an east-house; the lightning struck it and *Killed three Men and one Woman*, besides hurting several others. The bodies were but little disfigured. The poor woman was set on fire both at her head and feet; her shoes were completely torn off, and the nails in them partially drawn. One of the men had a steel watch-guard round his neck; this was completely fused, so that it crumbled on the touch, while of the watch the glass was cut in two and the works and case more or less damaged. Another had his leggings torn off as well as his shoes.

A youth has been *Struck Dead by Lightning*, during a storm at Iluddeby in Lincolnshire. He was the son of a miller, and his father had sent him to the top of the mill to repair a chain which was broken; while he had the chain in contact with his body, the only flash of lightning during the storm was attracted by the chain.

A frightful occurrence has happened at Nevin, North Wales. The wife of a labourer had occasion to go for milk to a farm at some distance, and during her absence locked her three young children in the cottage; a large quantity of corn in the straw having been previously placed there. This became ignited, and on the return of the woman she found the house on fire and her three children *Burnt to Ashes*.

A melancholy death from *Hydrophobia* occurred near Newcastle on Tyne on the 6th instant. About six or seven weeks before, Mrs. Newton, who keeps the tollgate at Blackhill, had her little granddaughter, a child five years of age, who was playing at her door, bit by a hound-dog belonging to one of her neighbours, which was in a rabid state. It was followed as far as Anfield Plain by a number of men, who destroyed it, but not before it had bitten several dogs on its way. The child was bitten in the face and lip, which bled profusely. Medical aid was obtained, and the child's face healed, no unpleasant symptoms occurring until Sunday, the 26th ult, when the child complained of her head; she gradually grew worse, and at length died in great agony.

A workman in the 'employment' of Messrs Bury, dyers at Salford, has been *Killed by falling among the Machinery*. He had been drinking, and had consequently been ordered by the foreman to go home; but seems to have returned before he was sober. A person working in a room adjoining the machinery suddenly heard a crash, as if something had disturbed the motion of it, and running into the passage, he saw the unfortunate man in the act of being torn to pieces amongst the wheels. He lost no time in going to the engine-house and getting the machinery stopped. Every exertion was then made to drag the body from its position, but this was a work of great difficulty, and when accomplished, it was too shockingly mangled for description. Both legs and both arms were torn from the body, only the head of the unfortunate man being uninjured. Altogether, the body was in above 20 pieces. Life had of course passed away long before the body was extricated.

An English vessel, the *Helen*, has been *Destroyed by Fire* on her passage from Para, in the river Amazon, to Liverpool. Mr. Wallace, a naturalist, was a passenger in her to England, and her crew, including the master and mates, numbered ten. On the morning of the 6th of August, much alarm was caused by a quantity of smoke being observed to issue from the fore scuttle, and it was discovered that the flames were raging in the after part of the ship immediately below the cabin. Efforts were made to extinguish them, but the flames rolled up both sides of the vessel with such fury, as to render all hopes of subduing them impossible. Mr. Turner the master, anticipating the fate of his ship, had previously directed the long boat and gig to be lowered, and as much provisions as could be procured placed in them. But a small quantity could be obtained. At length it was deemed prudent to order the hands to take to the boats. The crew, with Mr. Wallace, put off from her in the long-boat and gig, and hovered about her at a safe distance, in the hope that her blazing state might attract the attention of vessels passing by, and in bearing down would see them, and pick them up. Morning came, however, without any sail being in

view. Exposed as the men were to a powerful sun, their sufferings from thirst became most intense, and as days passed by without their seeming the least chance of being observed, a terrible fate appeared to await them all. The boisterous weather tried the boats severely, and the fear of their foundering kept the poor people in a most painful state of suspense. Several became much exhausted. At length, on the evening of the 16th of August, they espied a sail in view. Happily, they were perceived by a vessel, the *Jordeson*, the master of whom promptly bore down to their aid, and picked them up near the island of Bermuda. Their sufferings, however, did not altogether end on their being got on board the *Jordeson*. The latter's provisions owing to the addition of the *Helen's* men, and a somewhat protracted voyage, ran short, and all on board were put on a very small allowance at one time, almost next to nothing; indeed, but for a supply which was obtained from the *Ocean Wave*, homeward bound, they would have been all starved before they reached the Channel. Some rats were caught on board, and being cooked, were devoured with much relish. The contents of the grease pot were also consumed, and indeed anything that could sustain life.

Mr. Gibson, a well-known portrait-painter in Edinburgh, has been *Killed* by a shocking accident. Mr. Gibson had been actively engaged on the committee superintending the hanging of the pictures in the West of Scotland Academy's Exhibition, previous to its opening. It appears that after he had gone home, he returned to the exhibition-rooms in Buchanan Street for some purpose or other. Nothing is known of his subsequent movements till the watchman on the station, between ten and eleven o'clock, found him lying at the foot of the stair, leading to the Academy's rooms, in a dreadful mutilated condition. He was conveyed home, where he lingered in a state of insensibility till the following night, when death terminated his sufferings. It is supposed that he had missed his footing on the dark stairs, and been precipitated to the bottom. He was frightfully injured about the head and face.

A large quantity of agricultural produce, with barns, implements, and some live stock, has been *Destroyed by Fire* on the premises of Mr. Petley, at Ash, near Sandwich. The farmer's loss is estimated at 1500*l.*, only 800*l.* of which is covered by insurance. There seems reason to believe that the fire was wilfully caused; though Mr. Petley is acknowledged to be a good master.

An English vessel, the *Enchantress*, Captain Buckland of Yarmouth, has been *Lost*, on her passage from Pernambuco for Falmouth. The *Enchantress* struck on a shallow reef three days after leaving that port, and immediately went to pieces. The captain, two mates, one man, and a boy, were washed off the reef and drowned. The remainder of the crew, six in number, succeeded in constructing a raft out of the bowsprit of the wrecked vessel and another which they found on the reef, by which means they reached a small uninhabited island some distance off, called Lass Island, where they remained for 25 days, enduring the worst of privations, the only thing they had to subsist upon being the eggs of sea birds. There seeming to be no hopes of their being taken off the island, they again put to sea on the raft, when they were fortunately fallen in with by the brig *Richard*, and were taken on board, most of them in a dying state. The *Richard* has arrived at Liverpool, and brought the intelligence.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THIS is the season of *Agricultural Meetings*. The prevailing feature of those held recently has been the abandonment of Protection by its former supporters. The meeting of the Worcestershire Society was attended by four members connected with the County. General Lygon, Captain Rushout, Mr. Wynn Knight, and Colonel Clive, attended the annual meeting of the Worcestershire Agricultural Society. They all gave up Protection as hopeless, complained of the slack supply

of labour, and recommended the farmer to imitate the manufacturer and betake himself to machinery.

The Duke of Buccleuch and Lord Drumlaig acted as chairman and vice chairman at the dinner given after the Dumfries and Kircudbright Agricultural show. The Duke of Buccleuch especially urged the farmers to an unresisting effort to improve their stocks, their methods, and their crops. The man, said the Duke, who thinks himself at the top of the tree is sure to fall: "the right way was for a man always to think he was getting up—never that he had got up." The Exhibition was admitted to be very good in all points.

The Surrey meeting and ploughing match was held at Epsom on the 5th instant. At the dinner, Mr. Gadesden, the chairman, warmly urged the farmers to meet their difficulties by increased energy, by adopting scientific improvements, and using machinery. The toasts of the County Members brought out Mr. Alcock, Mr. Drummond, and Mr. Evelyn. Mr. Alcock proposed to "wipe off the malt-tax," and substitute for it an increased income-tax, not by raising the percentage, but by abolishing exemptions. Mr. Drummond echoed the judicious advice of the Chairman. Mr. Evelyn dwelt upon the prospective difficulties of the farmer, which he thought would arise out of a scanty supply of labour; and he proposed machinery as a remedy. Colonel Challoner told the farmers they must trust to themselves, and not suppose that any Government could or would in future pass any law exclusively for their benefit.

At the nineteenth annual dinner of the South Buckinghamshire Agricultural Association, given at Slough on the 5th, the farmers were told that they must trust to themselves; and when Mr. Trumper, a large and intelligent farmer, said he had the "utmost confidence in the honesty and talent of Mr. Disraeli," and ventured to hope that "there was something good looming in the distance," he was met by a loud burst of laughter, and loud cries of derision.

At the meetings of the Waltham, the Herefordshire, the Chertsey, the Cranbrook Associations, in like manner, the topic of protection was either passed over altogether, or slightly and evasively noticed; the object of the speakers being chiefly to advocate agricultural improvements.

The *Manchester Free Library* promises to be of immense utility. At night, when the hours of labour are over, the place is crowded, and in both reference library and the room below—in which the books for lending are kept—its greatest use, however, being as a reading-room for newspapers—young men and boys are frequently seen sitting on the floor in corners, because there is no room at the tables, or chairs for them to sit in. Most excellent order prevails, and the demeanour of the readers, in most instances, equals in seriousness and intent that of the frequenters of the reading room of the British Museum. A point of considerable moment was recently discussed at a final meeting of the general committee of subscribers. Under the Free Libraries Act, the burden of providing for the care and service of the institution alone devolves upon the corporation, and for that the halfpenny rate is available, but no portion of it can be spent in the purchase of books. Hence, unless the original subscribers exert a paternal care, in the course of years the library must become deficient in current literature, though not more than one-half the amount which the rate will raise (1700*l.*) will be required for maintenance; and it is suggested that the corporation shall raise a fund with which to purchase books, and keep up the completeness of the library, or perhaps, what will be more legitimate, that they shall spend the whole amount that the rate realised. A project is on foot for having two courses of lectures delivered in the reference library, one by the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, on modern or English history, and another by Mr. A. J. Scott, principal of Owen's College, on modern poetry and fictitious literature.

The Duke of Sutherland has ordered an announcement to be made to the entire tenantry of his estates, authorising them to *Kill all the Hares and Rabbits* on their farms.

The following statement of the *Annual Growth of*

Cotton in the United States since the year 1839, will show the fluctuating nature of this supply:—

	Bales.
1839—40	2,177,835
1840—41	1,634,945
1841—42	1,689,574
1842—43	2,378,875
1843—44	2,086,400
1844—45	2,394,503
1845—46	2,160,537
1846—47	1,778,651
1847—48	2,347,634
1848—49	2,728,596
1849—50	2,096,706
1850—51	2,353,257
1851—52	3,915,237

From this it will be seen that the large crop of 1840 fell in 1841 about 550,000 bales; in 1843 it increased again about 750,000 bales; in 1844 it decreased about 350,000 bales; in 1845 it increased 360,000 bales; in 1847 it decreased 616,000 bales; in 1849 it increased 1,000,000 bales; in 1850 it decreased 630,000 bales; in 1851 it increased 259,000 bales; and in 1852 it has increased 660,000 bales. All this proves the uncertainty of the cotton crops of America, and their instability as a source of supply. This is a most important consideration; for, should there come a scarcity of cotton, it would be far worse than a scarcity of food in the manufacturing districts, where the operatives would be starving in the midst of plenty.

A large and important *Meeting of Solicitors* was held at Derby on the 13th inst., at which several members of the Metropolitan and Provincial Law Society, from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Carlisle, Hull, Leeds, Birmingham, Lichfield, Derby, and other places, attended. The object for holding an aggregate meeting of the profession was, as stated in the society's circular, "for the purpose of taking into consideration their present position and prospects, and devising the best means of obtaining increased support for, and thus giving increased efficiency to, the association." Mr. Palmer, of London, who is the president of the association, having taken the chair, a series of resolutions to the following effect was proposed and unanimously adopted: "That with a view to promote the welfare of the legal profession, and to assist its members to discharge their duties to their clients and to the public, it is highly expedient that the practising attorneys and solicitors of England and Wales should be united in an association. That the objects of such an association should be to assist all well-considered plans for improving the law, especially as relating to the practice of the courts, and to maintain an honourable position and character for the profession. That the Metropolitan and Provincial Law Association, having been founded in 1847, and conducted from that time upon the principles expressed in the foregoing resolution, deserves the cordial support of every member of the profession, and this meeting accordingly pledges itself actively to endeavour to increase its power and usefulness by procuring a large accession to its number of members."

The Royal Commissioners, who were constituted a permanent body by a charter granted by her Majesty immediately on the closing of the Great Exhibition, have recently completed some very large purchases of land, which it is understood are to be applied to *The Erection of New National Galleries*, in combination with museums such as that now at Marlborough-house, or generally for the promotion of arts, manufactures, and commerce. The charter gave power to appropriate the surplus derived from the Great Exhibition to such purposes, but the extent even of the land purchases must have already exhausted that surplus, and the nation will have to supply the requisite funds for all that is to follow. The site chosen is at Kensington Gore. Behind Gore-house and the line of houses which stretches almost uninterruptedly from the new houses of Hyde Park-terrace up to Kensington turnpike is an extensive tract of land, now principally occupied as market gardens, and beautifully situated, gradually sloping to the south from the high ground of Hyde Park down to the Old Brompton-road. Great part of this land, in the time of the Commonwealth, belonged to the Protector, and the name is still preserved in "Crom-

well's-lane," and "Cromwell-house," though, except garden walls of great strength and solidity, there are no remains of his time. The lower part of the land is familiarly termed "Brompton-grove," and is ornamented with some really fine timber in the gardens and grounds still remaining on the southern part of the estate. The first tract of land obtained by the Commissioners was from the trustees of the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, from whom it is understood about 20 acres were obtained, at a cost of 60,000*l.*, or thereabouts; but the principal purchase (a very recent one) is from the Baron de Villars, who has sold 48 acres of land to the Commissioners for the large sum of 150,000*l.* For some smaller purchases to complete the boundary as much as 4000*l.* per acre has been asked, and, we believe, given.

The general scheme is stated to be this.—About 200 yards on this side of the turnpike at Kensington a road is to be cut, 100 feet wide, from Kensington Gore to Brompton, coming out at the back of Onslow-square. This road will furnish an enormous frontage for the new galleries to the west, and the façade will return at the south end to any depth required. The quantity of land secured will also allow of ornamental grounds around the building to a considerable extent.

The opening of the *Liverpool Free Library* took place on the 18th, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen, who had received invitations to attend. It is stated that Mr. J. A. Picton, in April 1850, first brought under the notice of the council the desirability of establishing a free library, when a committee for the purpose was formed, which reported favourably, but difficulty was found as to suitable premises. In 1851 the Earl of Derby proposed giving his fine collection of natural history if a museum were established, when the corporation purchased the premises in Duke-street, known as the Union Newsroom, with an adjoining piece of land, upon which an extensive wing has since been erected. Subscriptions were solicited, and the sum of 1389*l.* obtained for the purchase of books. Ten thousand volumes have been collected. The committee intend adding four thousand more volumes this year. The library will be open from nine in the morning to ten in the evening, and the committee intend recommending, at the earliest practicable period, the establishment of one or more lending libraries. The museum, numbering 18,700 specimens, is in the course of classification, and it is hoped will be shortly in a position to be thrown open to the public. Among the speakers were the Mayor (—Littledale, Esq.), Mr. Picton, Mr. Wm. Brown, M.P., Mr. Charles Turner, M.P., Mr. Thorneley, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Hume, Mr. Samuel Holme, and the Judge of the Liverpool County Court (Mr. J. Pollock). The last of these said, in the course of an eloquent address:—"The greatest security for law and order was to be found in the increasing intelligence and wide instruction and education of the community. Those who knew their own rights would recognise those of others; and he believed, if there was any class to whom it was of peculiar and essential importance to know the rights and privileges possessed by the meanest inhabitants of the country, it was more important to the poor than to the rich, to the miserable and degraded in worldly circumstances than to the wealthy and enlightened."

The recent accounts of the *State of Trade in the Provinces* show a general increase of activity. At Manchester both the home and export demand has been extremely large, with advancing quotations. At Birmingham the rise in metals is causing some perplexity on the part of consumers, but at present there is no diminution in the orders for manufactured goods. In the woollen districts transactions have been unprecedentedly large, at very firm prices. With regard to the consequences of the introduction, during the past season, of new machinery in place of hand labour, it is stated that the work which on the lower class of hosiery lately cost 1*s. 6d.* is now performed for 2*d.*, while at the same time the average earnings of the operatives have greatly increased. In the Irish linen-market there has been undiminished employment, and from that quarter, as well as from all other parts of the kingdom, the condition of the working classes is described to be more favourable than at any former period. All our manufacturing

districts, in short, are now most flourishing. All the mills are in full employment, and more mills are rising on every side. Most of the cotton-mill owners are under contracts; and persons having new or extra orders cannot get them completed. Complaints have been heard from more than one person of inability to get executed the orders sent by their customers from abroad. In almost all our markets—those of sugar, coffee, tallow, wool, cotton, &c.—prices are rising, and the demand for the raw materials of manufacture, and for articles of consumption, is rapidly increasing. Amongst our shipping there is great activity, and notwithstanding the immense quantities of goods carried by rail,—or perhaps we should say in consequence of the quantities brought from the interior of various countries by this new method of conveyance,—freights are rising, and there is an increase in our navigation. To meet the various exigencies of this rapid growth, several new chartered banks are announced, new projects of railways are brought forward, various new companies are forming, and speculation is alert, active, and bold.

A court of investigation into the *Administration of City Charities* was held on the 25th by the Lord Chief Baron, with Aldermen Challis, Sidney, Lawrence, and Wirc. The clerk of the Leathersellers' Company was called, and proved that the company had to administer Robert Rogers' Charity, amounting to 200*l.*, and to pay 3*l.* a year to poor prisoners in the city. The company had not done so. Since 1825 no payments had been made to such prisoners, except on special application. The charity was in Chancery. The company also administered a charity called George Humble's Charity, the interest of which was 8*l.* a year. This charity was also in the Court of Chancery. Since 1835 no part of the interest arising from the charity had been paid to poor prisoners (the objects of the charity), except in 1842, when 3*l.* was paid to a freeman who had made a special application. He had not been able to examine the state of the accounts as between the company and the charity, nor had they been made up since 1835. Monies had been paid to the keepers of the prisons and particular applicants, but he could not say how much. He had not the books of the company with him. The company was ready to pay up any arrears that might be due to the charity. There was a charity administered by the company called Garner's Charity. That charity was also in Chancery. By a scheme made by the Master, one-third of the annual proceeds was to go to poor prisoners, but that had not been done. The recipients of the third were widows, but he could not give their names. The court thought this a very strange and unsatisfactory statement, and passed on to the management of the Mercers' Company, which appeared to be of a much more favourable character.

A preliminary meeting of gentlemen connected with the borough of Marylebone was held on the 25th at the house of Mr. Oliveira, M.P., at the requisition of that gentleman, the object being the establishment of a *Free Library in the Borough* for the benefit of the working classes, on a plan similar to those which have already been so successfully opened in Manchester and Liverpool. A number of resolutions were passed, calculated for the accomplishment of the object; and before the meeting separated Mr. Oliveira stated his intention of presenting the library with five hundred volumes, an intimation which was received with loud cheers.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen, Prince Albert, and the royal family, left Balmoral on the 12th inst. for Windsor Castle. The royal party went, by the way of Preston and Chester, to Bangor, and visited the tubular bridge over the Menai Straits. They then proceeded, by Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton and Birmingham, to Windsor, where they arrived on the 14th.

The Duchess of Kent arrived on the same day in town from Abergeildie, after having staid for a short time at Doncaster.

Lord Hardinge, commanding the army in chief, has appointed the following officers as his aides-de-camp: Colonel Lord Charles Wellesley, unattached; Lieut.-

Colonel Robert Blucher Wood, C.B., half-pay; Captain Charles Earl of March, unattached; Captain Henry Marquis of Worcester, 7th Hussars.

Lord Fitzroy Somerset has been appointed Master General of the Ordnance; and Lord Combermere has succeeded to the Duke of Wellington's offices of Constable of the Tower and Lord Lieutenant of the Tower Hamlets.

The Earl of Derby was elected, on the 12th inst., Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

The Hon. Joseph Ingersoll, who has succeeded Mr. Lawrence as ambassador from the United States, has arrived in London. Mr. Ingersoll is a native of Philadelphia, in which city he has resided all his life. For many years he was a distinguished member of the bar, and by his professional labours accumulated a large fortune. He retired on his election to Congress several years since, and after having served his constituents with ability and zeal for two or three terms, he declined a re-nomination.

Amongst recent emigrants to Australia are a son of the Bishop of Exeter, who has gone out as a settler near Melbourne; and the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel's son, who is gone out to practise at the Australian bar.

The Queen has granted a pension of 200*l.* a year to Mrs. Caroline Southey, "in consideration of her late husband's eminent literary merits."

A pension of 75*l.* a year has been granted to Miss Louisa Stuart Costello, "in consideration of her merits as an authoress, and her inability, from the state of her health, to continue her exertions for a livelihood."

The Queen has granted a pension of 100*l.* a year to the widow of Mr. Pugin the architect. Mr. Pugin had contributed greatly to the decoration of the New Palace at Westminster.

Dr. Anderson, chemist to the Highland Society, has been appointed by the Crown to the Chemical Chair in Glasgow University.

Mr. Adolphus, the reporter of the Court of Queen's Bench, and Solicitor-General for the County Palatine of Lancaster, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Amos as judge of the Marylebone County Court.

The *Prince Albert*, the small vessel dispatched in May 1851, by Lady Franklin in search of her husband and his party, has returned without any information respecting the long lost adventurers. But it has brought intelligence of considerable interest as to the expedition which started at the same time under Sir Edward Belcher. Substantially it confirms what Mr. Penny asserted last year. His discoveries had made it tolerably clear, that northward and northwest of the Wellington Channel there exists a passage open when Barrow's Straits are closed, leading into a climate comparatively temperate, and fitted for the habitation of man, and extending probably to the eastern shores of Northern Asia. It now appears that some five days before the arrival of the Prince Albert at Beechy Island (where her commander received the despatches of Sir Edward Belcher from which these particulars are extracted) the squadron under the orders of that commander had steamed up the channel to the point indicated by Capt. Penny, and had not returned. Yet the distance is short, and if no such passage had existed, Sir Edward Belcher, on detecting the mistake, would have returned to the rendezvous at Beechy Island. It may be taken for granted, therefore, that the passage does exist, and that Sir Edward Belcher has entered it. The sanguine inference will of course be that Sir John Franklin did the same before him. It is at least the only hypothesis on which can be grounded the strong belief still cherished by many that some at least of that gallant company still survive to reward the expectation of their anxious country.

According to a programme which has been published in the newspapers, the funeral of the Duke of Wellington will take place between the 17th and 19th of November. The Duke's remains will rest at Walmer Castle till four days before the funeral. When removed, they will be taken to Chelsea Hospital, and there lie in state three days. On the evening before the funeral, they will be taken to the Horse Guards; and next day to St. Paul's, by Charing Cross, the Strand, and Fleet Street. Six regiments of infantry, eight squadrons of cavalry, and seventeen guns, will take part in the

procession; the escort due to the rank of Field-Marshal. Eighty-three veterans from Chelsea Hospital, the number corresponding with the years of the Duke's life; and a body of marines will also assist. The batons of Field-Marshal held by the late Duke will be borne by the Marquis of Anglesea, and the accredited representatives of foreign armies. It is recommended that the procession be as much as possible a walking one, to avoid delay and a train of carriages. The streets will be kept by the police, and not by the military. The body of the Duke will be buried under the centre of the dome of St. Paul's. Over the grave will be constructed a "gorgeous catafalque." The interior of the cathedral will be profusely lighted up with jets of gas in all parts. Four huge galleries, intended to accommodate 10,000 persons, will be erected; three for the privileged spectators, and one for the choir; and these will be hung with black cloth. All the statues will be covered up, except those of Nelson and Cornwallis, which will be partly shrouded in black drapery. There is to be a separate gallery for the members of parliament who may attend.

Lord Medwyn, one of the judges of the Court of Session, has resigned. Mr. Marshall, Dean of Faculty, is mentioned as his probable successor.

Dr. Macpherson has been admitted and inducted to the Professorship of Divinity at King's College, Aberdeen, and has received the right hand of fellowship from the meeting.

The *Will of the late Mr. Neild*, which has excited so much interest and curiosity, is now in Doctors' Commons. It is written by the deceased himself, in a clear bold round hand, and only occupies the front of a sheet of foolscap. The will begins by saying, that he, James Camden Neild, of Lincoln's-inn and Chelsea, in the county of Middlesex, wished his body to be interred in Battersea Church, and in a vault as near as may be to his beloved father, James Neild. He bequeathed to his executors 100*l.* each, and directed them to pay all his just debts (which were very trifling), and hereafter he gave and bequeathed all "real and personal property to which I may be entitled at law or in equity unto Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, for her own private use and advantage, and her heirs, executors, and assigns." And he expresses a hope that her Majesty will be pleased to accept of the same. He appoints as his executors, the Hon. the Keeper for the time being of her Majesty's Privy Purse, the Very Rev. Henry Tatton, Archdeacon of Bedford, and Mr. James Stephens, of the county of Kent. The will is attested by Charles Shadwell, of Gray's-inn, and George Tatton, his clerk. The will was proved on the 21st inst., by the Hon. Charles Bowman Phipps, Keeper of her Majesty's Privy Purse, the Archdeacon of Bedford, and Mr. Stephens, the executors appointed under it, and the estate sworn to as under 250,000*l.*

Obituary of Notable Persons.

VICE-ADMIRAL BULKELEY MACKWORTH FRAED died on the 6th inst., at Acton Castle, Cornwall, at the age of 82.

LORD KOLLO died at his seat of Duncrub, in Strathene, on the 8th inst.

MR. THOMAS WILSON died on the 9th inst., at Hackney, in the 85th year of his age. He represented the city of London in two consecutive Parliaments, from the year 1818 to 1826.

LORD DYXTER died at his ancestral mansion, Kimmel Park, on the evening of the 13th inst. He had long suffered severely from epileptic fits, and was attacked in an alarming manner on the Sunday previous, from which attack he never rallied.

COLONEL SIR DIGBY MACKWORTH, BART., died on the 23rd ult., at Glen Usk, county Monmouth, aged 62.

DR. TOWNSEND, Bishop of Meath, died on the 16th ult. at Malaga, whither he had proceeded for the benefit of his health, and where he had only arrived the day before his decease. He had been suffering for some time from a pulmonary affection; and latterly there had been little hope of his recovery.

THE BISHOP OF ST. ANDREW'S, DUNKELD, AND DUNELANE, the Right Rev. Dr. Patrick Torry, died on the 3rd inst., at his residence, Peterhead, N.B., at the age of 89.

EARL SOMERS died on the 6th inst., at his residence in Grosvenor-place, in his 65th year.

JOHN BENNET, ESQ., late M.P. for Wilts, died on the 1st inst., of apoplexy, in his 80th year.

MR. THOMAS THOMSON died in Edinburgh on the 2nd inst. He was a coadjutor of Jeffery, Sydney Smith, and Lord Brougham in the establishment of the "Edinburgh Review," and was a prominent member of the Liberal party at the Scotch bar. He held for many years the office of Deputy Clerk Registrar, and in that capacity rendered the most valuable services to the public, by collecting the national records, and making them available.

MR. WILLIAM FINDEN, the celebrated engraver, died on the 25th ult., of disease of the heart, to which he had long been subject, but which was aggravated by a violent cold. He was in the 66th year of his age.

MAJOR-GENERAL COLBY, of the Royal Engineers, died at Liverpool, on the 2nd inst., in his 79th year. His name will long be associated with the Ordnance Survey of this kingdom, at the head of which he was placed by the Duke of Wellington, when Master-General of the Ordnance.

MR. BARNES, the engineer, who was the director of the construction of steam-engines and vessels for the service of the Messageries Impériales of France, died on the 24th ult., at La Ciotat, near Marseilles, France, in the 54th year of his age.

PRINCE GUSTAVUS, Duke of Upland, and second son of the King of Sweden, died at Christiania, on the 24th ult. He landed there on the 16th ult. with their Majesties, and complained of indisposition. On the following day he was seized with violent fever, which ended fatally.

GENERAL CASTAÑO, Duke of Baylen, died at Madrid, on the 24th September, in his 95th year. The sole military feat of the aged General was the capture of Dupont and a French army, at Baylen in 1808, with a body of regulars and patriot levies. For this service, which roused the despairing insurrection, he was made a duke.

MRS. PATERSON, one of Burns's heroines, died at Manchine on the 15th inst. She was Miss Morton, one of the five "Manchine belles" commemorated by the poet. She was in her 87th year. Almost to the last she retained her faculties unimpaired; and on one of her grandsons asking her a few hours previous to her decease if she still remembered Burns, she at once replied, "Ay, bravely that."

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE *India Mail* brings intelligence from Bombay to the 15th of September. At Rangoon preparations were making for an advance by detachments up the Irawaddy as far as Prome; using the steam flotilla. Reinforcements were hastening to join General Godwin's army; which would, when complete, amount to 16,000 men, exclusive of the flotilla men, who muster 3000 strong. As yet there were no cavalry in the army of Ava. The Marquis of Dalhousie, when he returned from Rangoon, countermanded the orders for the advance of some of the Madras regiments named on the receipt of General Godwin's requisition. This is taken to indicate that the Burmese will be more easily overcome than it was at first anticipated.

Captain Tarleton had been superseded in the command of the steam flotilla by Captain Shadwell of the *Sphinx*.

August have been received. The news is unimportant and consists of the usual information respecting isolated frays with the Caffres, rebel Hottentots, and the colonists. In one of these it is said the rebel Hottentots used Minié rifles and conical balls, supposed to be those captured at the Konap from the detachment of Sappers, some time before. Military patrols continued, but no engagements are recorded. General Cathcart was encamped on the Ox Kraal River on the 4th of August, preparing for the Trans-Kei expedition. He had been joined by the cavalry. It is stated that the turn-out of the burghers will be small. The Craddock men say they cannot turn out if unsupported by the Graaf Reinet men in their rear; and the Albert burghers object that the Colesberg men will not join them. But there had been some arrivals at the camp from Port Elizabeth and Albany. A frontier rumour stated that the enemy had driven off his cattle in the direction of the sea-coasts and the forest of Bashee, burning the grass in his rear.

There is a report that gold has been found in the Waterloof; from whence, it is said, an officer has sent down a specimen of sand or soil containing particles of the precious metal. Some excitement had been raised; but the story is unconfirmed. The report of the Committee appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor to examine the indications of the alleged deposits of coal near Cape Town has decided against the existence of the deposits.

The advices from *Canada* state that the Provincial Assembly after a very warm debate, which lasted four days, adopted the address to the Queen, asking for power to distribute the clergy reserved lands. Mr. Young, the Commissioner of the Board of Public Works, has resigned in consequence of the government having resolved to put on American vessels passing the Welland Canal the same tolls as are paid by British vessels passing both the Welland and St. Lawrence canals, and to restore the differential duties against direct American trade by placing higher duties on goods coming that way than on those coming by the St. Lawrence. Mr. Hincks, in behalf of the remaining members of the cabinet, explained to the Assembly that the object of the new policy was to induce the United States to grant reciprocity.

In the *Canadian Legislative Assembly* an important bill has been read a second time for the modification of the usury laws. The object of the bill is to destroy penalties for usury, but only to allow the present legal rate of 6 per cent., to be recovered by law. Almost the entire voice of the representatives from Upper Canada was in its favour, but it was strongly opposed by the French Canadians, who consider usury a crime. The resolutions of the government for making the Legislative Council elective have been discussed by the house, but no vote has yet been taken upon them. Much exception was taken to the details of the ministerial scheme, but all sides of the house, and marvellous to relate, even the Tories admitted that the principle of election would have to be applied to the second branch of our legislature. The proposed change is a very vital one, and the sentiments expressed upon it show how rapid has been the progress of political ideas in this province.

The parliament of the *Ionian Islands* was prorogued by Sir Henry Ward on the 15th of September, to the 1st of March, 1854; on the ground that the members had refused to enable him to establish measures of moderate constitutional reform. In dismissing the parliament, the Governor threatened to use his extraordinary powers "without scruple."

The news from the *Australian Gold-Diggings* continues to be favourable. The number of ounces of gold brought by the weekly escort from Mount Alexander into Melbourne during the last week in July was 100,000; and it was estimated that a million sterling of unemployed money was in the hands of labourers. As labour in Victoria is said to be too dear for sheep-shearing, the sheep were to be slaughtered to supply the diggers with mutton. The monthly escort from Mount Alexander to Adelaide has been established; and the assay-office in Adelaide has got into working order. The total amount deposited in the office to the 25th of June exceeded 550,000*l.* Stocks are reported as being low, and money was finding an investment on land. A proclamation from the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the Legislative Council of South Australia from the 1st of July to the 1st of September.

PROGRESS OF EMIGRATION AND COLONISATION.

Mrs. Chisholm is assiduously engaged in holding *Group Meetings for the promotion of Family Emigration* in different quarters of the metropolis. One of them, held in Spicer-street Chapel, Spitalfields, on the 15th inst., was attended by a large assemblage of persons belonging chiefly to the classes of clerks and governesses to whom she especially directed an address replete with sound and practical advice. One portion of it, relating to herself personally, was peculiarly interesting:—

"I am," she said, "going, next year, to return to the colony, where all must feel that it is necessary to make preparations for females on their arrival, and when that is done, thousands of parents will gladly send their daughters to Australia. It is to meet, in some degree, this difficulty, that I am going out in June next. I hope that many young girls will by that time be able to wash their own caps and frills for the first time. They must learn to make puddings and pies, and toss their own beds; and when they can do these things, all that is necessary to be done in a house, they will be fit for Australia. It seems that a greater number of situations are offering in Australia for clerks and book-keepers who understand double entry. There is, therefore, a better prospect of obtaining what are called light employments in the colony. Emigration was expected to do a great deal of harm; but I find it has done good to everybody. I find that the 'poor' curates, as we call them, are to have their salaries increased in Australia. You know that there is always a difficulty in finding one's relations and friends in Australia. During the time I was there, I kept a registry of every person with whom I had any connexion. I have that registry here, so that I may so far be of use to those who wish to know where their friends are. I have remittances mentioned in this paper to the amount of 3000*l.* for the conveyance of 474 persons. My son, who is here this evening, will be shortly leaving me for Australia. He is going there to earn his bread, but I have a claim on him, and his father has a still greater claim on him. For a time we want his help—that is to say, his leisure hours—and if young men would only employ their leisure hours in something useful, it would keep them from a great deal of temptation. He is going to the diggings, not for the purpose of digging gold, but for the purpose of being a link of communication between Captain Chisholm in Melbourne and myself in this country, with the view of finding out the relations of persons here. His occupation to-day has been to see wives, in order to get from them a description of their husbands. And his particular office, when he gets to the diggings, will be to look after the 'shufflers,' as those men are called in New South Wales who in any way neglect their wives. Many make an excuse by saying that they cannot write, but my son will write for them, so that excuse will no longer do. Men may say I would send for you, but I feared the danger of the sea voyage, with nobody to protect you on the passage; but I will take as many wives as are sent for, and those husbands who do not send for their wives will see me every week at the diggings till they do. I know many wives might have gone with their husbands if they had not listened to the advice of some foolish friend or relative who suggested to them that it would be better for the man to go in the first instance. That is bad advice, for I know, when it comes to emigration and the bush, man has not half the energy of woman. If any persons are anxious to hear of their relatives in the colonies, no matter whether they have been 'sent out' at her Majesty's expense or not, they have only to give me the name of the party, and if I do not find him out it will be a strange thing to me. I am certain that 90 out of every 100 persons would be glad to assist their friends to go out, if they knew they were anxious to do so; but no man who lived in Australia was willing to undertake the responsibility of advising others to emigrate. If you give me the name of your friends I will send it to my husband, who will find them out, and they will no doubt send for you. They have no way of spending their money. One poor person told me she had nine silk dresses, but they were of no use to her, because somebody else got them out from the same piece; and another told me she could not enjoy her wealth because she had no poor persons to give it to. I can assure you I shall spare no pains or trouble till I bring about that happy re-union of families for which I feel the greatest interest."

The *Canterbury Association* ceased its colonising functions and its land sales in this country on the 30th of September. The circumstances which have led to this result are stated to be:—first, a mis-understanding with her Majesty's government; and, secondly, with the directors of the New Zealand Company, to whom the association is largely indebted. The committee of the Canterbury Association, feeling themselves placed in a difficult position, have endeavoured to transfer their functions to the colonial legislature. Her Majesty's government, however, have refused to allow this, without a settlement of the claims of the Crown and the New Zealand Company on the funds of the association. The demands made are considered by the Canterbury Association to be unjust, and there appears at present no hope of terminating the dispute, except by the most summary proceedings on the part of her Majesty's government, or an action at common law between the company and the association. The correspondence between the Canterbury Association and the Colonial Secretary has been published, from which it appears that the government has refused to comply with the proposals of the committee of management, and that all friendly negotiations are at an end.

The "New York Daily Times" of the 30th ult., alluding to the *Immigration from Europe*, says—

"On Thursday and Friday of last week 6892 foreign emigrants landed on our shores, and since that time 7321 more have arrived, making an addition, within less than one week, of 14,153 persons to the population of this city by emigration alone; and this process is going on from week to week, from month to month, and from year to year. Can the history of modern times show anything like it? Has there ever before been a time when whole cities were emptied upon our wharfs in a single week—when ships within a fortnight brought more people among us than cities of half a century's growth contain?"

During the last month sixty-two ships under government control sailed from Liverpool to Australia, carrying no fewer than 23,280 passengers, including 1770 from the emigration depot at Birkenhead. The parochial authorities of Liverpool are using exertions to obtain a voluntary rate for the purpose of aiding

deserving paupers to emigrate to the antipodes. They have recently availed themselves of a balance of an old voluntary rate for this purpose. Last week, they succeeded in sending away twenty hearty young girls, by the Catherine Mitchell. Before the vessel left the river, ten of them had been engaged as servants by families on board.

Emigration from the Western Islands is proceeding at a rapid rate under the auspices of the Highland and Island Emigration Society. Last week 400 people arrived in Glasgow, en route for Birkenhead government depot, whence they will be shipped to Australia. The greater number were from Skye; but a group of thirty-six, formed of eight families, was from the rocky and remote St. Kilda—the first emigrants thence. Already two thousand persons have quitted Skye, by means of the Emigration Society.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE *French* journals have been filled with official accounts (no others being permitted) of the Prince-President's progress through the Southern Departments. These accounts are a monotonous repetition of triumphal entries, pageants, banquets, addresses, and displays of unbounded public enthusiasm. We find among them, however, a few remarkable and characteristic traits.

While the President was on his way to Avignon, an "infernal machine" was seized by the police at Marseilles, on the night of the 23rd ult. The *Mouiteur* gave the following account of the affair:—

"The Minister of General Police has for some time past been on the trace of a secret society, of which the object became every day more manifest. The members had resolved to make an attempt on the life of the President. The city of Marseilles had been chosen for the execution of the plot. M. Sylvain Blot, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Police, carefully followed its development and progress. The construction of an infernal machine having been resolved on, several of the members set to work, and the machine was quickly completed. It is composed of 250 gun-barrels, and four large blunderbuss-barrels, the entire divided into twenty-eight compartments. Those twenty-eight pieces were for greater precaution deposited in twenty-eight different places until the moment a suitable place could be found to fix and put the machine together. The conspirators then occupied themselves with the choice of a situation, which should naturally be situate on the passage of the Prince President. They first fixed their choice on a first story in a house in the Rue d'Aix, whither they were to remove and raise the machine on the night previous to that in which the President was to arrive at Marseilles. Some suspicions which were excited in the minds of the conspirators caused them to change their idea, and a second locality was chosen. Like the first, it was situate on the passage of the President, being on the high-road from Aix. An entire house was hired. It is a small house, composed of two stories, with two windows in front. The infernal machine was to have been placed on the first floor. It was seized on that spot. At the same moment, one of the conspirators was in the very house in which the infernal machine was found. The others were in their houses, or in the different places where the police were assured of their presence."

There is considerable scepticism as to the truth of this story, which is suspected to be a device to excite popular enthusiasm. The official accounts describe the President's reception at Marseilles as magnificent. But an English eye-witness, writing in the *Times*, gives a very different picture:—

"I was stationed, at the time of his arrival, on the Place St. Ferreol, a good-sized square, close to the Prefecture, where he was to alight. The square had been very handsomely decorated, and turned into a parterre of flowers, surrounded on all sides by a compact mass of soldiers; admittance within the square being given by tickets, which were only granted to persons of known character and respectability. My chief object in going thither was to ascertain, from personal observation, the manner in which Louis Napoleon was received. I watched the populace, both within and without the square, very closely and attentively; and I can assure you that there was not any expression of feeling in his favour; with the exception of a few, very few and feeble, cries of 'Vive Napoleon!'—a sullen and significant silence sat upon the multitude. The troops did not utter a single cry. The President looked most wretched, haggard, and careworn."

The President left Marseilles for Toulon, accom-

panied by a strong fleet of war-steamers and men-of-war, on the 27th. We are told that "the crews of the vessels raised one sole cry of 'Vive l'Empereur!' and the whole town responded. The squadron saluted with its thousand cannon. Toulon and its roadstead presented a spectacle as imposing as magnificent." Returning from Toulon to Marseilles on the 29th, President Bonaparte set out at once for Aix; passing through Rognac and Septemes. He arrived at Aix about four o'clock in the afternoon, escorted by soldiers, generals, prefects, and an army of official persons. Aix was formerly the capital of King René, father of Margaret of Anjou, and the head-quarters of the troubadours. King René, whose mind ran on such things, invented and established a fête called "la Fête Dieu," representing the triumph of Christianity over Paganism. This famous celebration was suppressed by the Convention; revived in 1803 and in 1807. Associated with the history of the Empire, the authorities of Provence thought fit to revive it on the occasion of the visit of the inchoate Emperor. Accordingly, the old mummeries were got up afresh; and when M. Bonaparte entered Aix, an historic procession, comprising King Herod and Jupiter, the Queen of Sheba and Venus, the three Magi and the three Zephyrs, besides hosts of forgotten personages, angels, demons, bishops, and others, danced round the imperial carriage to the music of flutes and tambourines. This strange performance was followed by an address from the mayor, and a gracious but insignificant reply from M. Bonaparte. An address presented to the President by the Mayor of a commune in the department of the Hérault, is a parody on the *Lord's Prayer*:—

"Our Prince—Yon, who are in power by right of birth and by the acclamation of the people, your name is everywhere glorified. May your reign come, and be perpetuated by the immediate acceptance of the imperial crown of the great Napoleon. May your firm and wise will be done in France, as abroad. Give us this day our daily bread, by reducing progressively the customs-duty, so as to permit the entry of articles which are necessary to us, as also the exportation of what is superfluous. Pardon us our offences, when you shall be certain of our repentance and that we become better. Do not permit us to yield to the temptation of cupidity and place-hunting, but deliver us from evil—that is to say, from secret societies, from vicious teaching, from the excesses of the press, from elections of every kind; and continue to make it more and more a matter of honour, the practice of morality and of religion, respect for authority, agriculture, and industry, the love of order and of labour. Amen!"

At La Teste, a deputation of young girls was introduced to the President by the mayor of the town. They were all dressed in white, and wore the high cap of their district. They carried in neatly-woven baskets the products of their part of France—namely, fish, oysters, shells from the basin of Aracchon, fruit, honey, and ears of rice. One of them, Mademoiselle Monpermy, presented the following address:—

"Monseigneur,—Allow us to offer to your Imperial Highness, in the name of the maritime and labouring population of La Teste, with the expression of our unalterable devotedness, this slight tribute of our Landes, and of the beautiful basin of Aracchon, which one day attracted the attention of the Emperor, and which our country would have been so proud to show you."

The Prince was pleased to accept the offering, and said:—"You are yourself, Mademoiselle, the fairest product of the country. I thank you for your gracious attention." He then spoke for some time to the young visitors, and asked a number of questions concerning the articles which they brought, saying something kind to each. The fair deputation had already withdrawn, when the Prince had the Mayor and Mademoiselle Monpermeu called back, and then went himself into his bedroom for a magnificent brooch, which he presented to the latter as a remembrance. "Monsieur," said the young girl, visibly moved, "I had no need of this jewel to cause me to remember you, for your image will always remain engraven on my heart." The Mayor of Sèvres has published an address to the inhabitants, calling upon them to sign a proclamation of the Empire, which, he informs them, is lying at the Mairie for that purpose. The civic magistrate's address is a gross mockery of religion:—

"Inhabitants," he says, "Paris, the heart of France, acclaimed on the 10th of May its Emperor him whose divine mission is every day revealed in such a striking and dazzling manner. At this moment it is the whole of France electrified which salutes her saviour, the elect of God, by this new title, which clothes him with sovereign power. 'God wills it,' is repeated with one voice—*one populi vox Dei*. It is the marriage of France with the envoy of God which is contracted in the face of the universe, under the auspices of all the constituted bodies, and of all the people. That union is sanctified by all the ministers of religion, and by all the Princes of the Church. These addresses, these petitions, and these speeches, which are at this moment being exchanged between the Chief of the State and France are the documents connected with that holy union; every one wishes to sign them, as at the church he would sign the marriage-deed at which he is present. Inhabitants of Sèvres, as the interpreter of your sentiments, I have prepared the deed which makes you take part in this great national movement. Two books are opened at the Mairie to receive your signatures: one of them will be offered in your presence to him whom I from this day designate under the title of Emperor. Let us hope that he will deign to accede to the supplications which I shall address to him in your name, to return to the Palace of St. Cloud through our territory, by the gate of honour which we possess. The other book, which I shall present for the signature of the Prince, will remain in your archives as a happy *souvenir* of this memorable epoch. Let all the population, without distinction, come therefore and sign this document; it sets forth that which is in your heart and in your will."

The document is as follows:—

"Proclamation of the Empire.—The town of Sèvres, obeying of its sentiments of affection and of gratitude for Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, the Envoy of God and the elect of France, her saviour and her glory, proclaims him Emperor of the French, under the name of Napoleon III., and confers on him and on his descendants hereditary rights.

"Done at Sèvres on the 7th of October, in the year of grace and resurrection, 1852.

(Signed) "MÉNAGER, Mayor."

The President dined on the 9th with the Chamber of Commerce of Bordeaux, when he made a speech which will be commemorated in the history of the period. He said:—

"I accept with eagerness the opportunity afforded me by the Bordeaux Chamber of Commerce for thanking your great city for its cordial reception and its magnificent hospitality; and I am happy at the end of my journey to communicate the impressions I have received. The object of my tour, as you are well aware, was to make myself acquainted, by personal observation, with the beautiful provinces of the South, and to ascertain their real wants. It has, however, led to a far more important result. I may say, indeed, with a candour as far removed from pride as from false modesty, that never did a people more directly, more spontaneously, more unanimously testify a determination to free itself from all uneasiness respecting the future, by placing in the same hands as heretofore a power which sympathises with its feelings. The people has now at last learned to value at their price the false hopes with which it has been beguiled, and the dangers with which it was threatened. It seems, then, that in 1852 society approached its dissolution, because each party consoled itself with the belief that amid the general wreck it might still plant its standard on the floating fragments. Now that its eyes are opened to absurd theories, the people has acquired the conviction that those pretended reformers were mere visionaries, inasmuch as there has always been a disproportion and a want of consequence between their expedients and the promised result. At present, the nation surrounds me with its sympathies, because I do not belong to the family of the ideologists. To promote the welfare of the country it is not necessary to apply new systems, but the chief point, above all, is to produce confidence in the present and security for the future. For these reasons, it seems France desires a return to the Empire. There is one objection to which I must reply.

Certain minds seem to entertain a dread of war; certain persons say, the Empire is only war. But I say, the Empire is peace; for France desires it, and when France is satisfied, the world is tranquil. ["These words," according to the published report, "uttered in a firm voice, and with strong emphasis," produced a magical effect: enthusiastic bravos were heard from all sides.] Glory descends by inheritance, but not war. Did the Princes who justly felt pride that they were the grandchildren of Louis XIV. recommence his wars? War is not made for pleasure, but through necessity; and at this epoch of transition, where by the side of so many elements of prosperity spring so many causes of death, we may truly say, were he to him who gives the first signal to a collision, the consequences of which would be incalculable. I confess, however, that, like the Emperor, I have many conquests to make. I wish, like him, to conquer by conciliation, all hostile parties, and to bring into the grand popular current those hostile streams which now lose themselves without profit to any one. I wish to restore to religion, morality, and opulence, that still numerous part of the population, which, though in the bosom of the most fertile country in the world, can scarcely obtain the common necessities of life. We have immense waste-territories to cultivate, roads to open, ports to dig, rivers to render navigable, a system of railroads to complete; we have opposite to Marseilles a vast kingdom, which we must assimilate to France; we have to bring all our great Western ports into connexion with the American continent, by a rapidity of communication which we still want; lastly, we have ruins to restore, false gods to overthrow, and truths to be made triumphant. This is the sense which I attach to the Empire, if the Empire is to be restored. Such are the conquests which I contemplate; and all you, who surround me, and who, like me, desire your country's welfare—you are my soldiers."

This speech has been printed and extensively circulated by the government. 50,000 copies have been ordered to be distributed among the miners of the basin of the Loire.

The President returned to Paris on Saturday the 16th, when he made a grand triumphal entry into the capital. Preparations were made for quite an imperial reception. High triumphal arches, garnished with imperial devices, were raised along the route to the Tuileries. Some were shrouded in laurels—green being the Emperor's colour; some were covered with crimson cloth, studded with golden bees; others with green velvet. Ornamental canopies were decked out with shields, escutcheons, eagles, armour, and the initials "L. N." The inscriptions were of this kind—"La Ville de Paris à Louis Napoléon, Empereur;" "Vive Napoléon III.;" "L'Empire c'est la Paix;" "A son Altesse Impériale Napoléon III., Empereur des Français." At the entrance of the garden of the Tuileries, a magnificent arch bore this inscription:—

"A Napoléon III., Empereur.—Sauveur de la civilisation moderne. Protecteur des sciences, des arts, de l'agriculture, de l'industrie, et du commerce.—Les ouvriers reconnaissans. Constitution de l'an 8. Constitution de 1853. Conversion des Rentes. Crédit foncier. Travaux d'utilité publique. Chemins de fer. Contribution du Louvre. Rue de Rivoli."

Balconies and galleries, covered with crimson cloth and fringed with gold, had been set up before many houses. Early in the morning crowds assembled on the Boulevards and outside the Orleans terminus. By noon the windows filled with spectators, and traffic was suspended for the day. Soldiers, horse and foot, regiments of the Line and National Guards, lined the streets. Bands of market-women and trades' deputations, with green sashes, bearing banners resplendent with golden devices and golden bees, were marching to the Place de la Concorde. At two o'clock, a gun from the Barrière du Trône announced that the President had arrived at the terminus. The bands of the National Guards began playing the old imperial airs; the battery at the Barrière du Trône fired a continuous salute of 121 guns; the bells rang out; while the veterans of the Grand Army passed on their way to the Place de la Concorde. The President was received at the terminus by all the grand dignitaries of state, the judges, the bar, the Archbishop of Paris and his clergy, and a host of functionaries, in brilliant uniforms. He was addressed by the President of the Municipal Council of Paris, and by the Prefect of the Seine, who implored him to yield to the "wishes of an entire people," and to conclude the mission intrusted to him by Providence "by resuming the crown of the immortal founder of your dynasty;" and declaring "it is only under the title of Emperor that you can accomplish the promises of the magnificent programme you addressed to attentive Europe at Bordeaux." The President then mounted his horse and

proceeded to the Tuileries, preceded by squadrons of National Guards, by their staff, and a body of mounted *Chasseurs*; he rode alone fifteen paces ahead of his staff, in the full uniform of a Lieutenant-General. The Boulevards were lined with troops; a strong mass of heavy cavalry followed the staff; and as they passed, the regiments that kept the ground closed in and joined the procession. In this way he proceeded to the Tuileries; flowers falling at his horse's feet, and women breaking the line at intervals, encouraged by M. Bonaparte, three to present him with bouquets, one with a paper. After he had entered the palace of the Tuileries, he reappeared on the balcony, to bow to the acclamations of trades' deputations. The same night he repaired to the *Elysée*.

During the day a decree was posted in the streets of Paris, reducing the octroi-duties on salt, pork, and bacon, fifty per cent. The senate is convoked for the 4th November. The reason for this step is "the striking manifestation which has just taken place throughout France in favour of the re-establishment of the Empire." The work of the senate will be to adopt a *Senatus-consultum* recommending the Empire, and submit it for ratification to the French people.

The President has restored Abd-el-Kader to liberty. He visited the old Emir personally to communicate his intention. During the interview Abd-el-Kader swore on the Koran that he would never attempt to disturb the French rule in Africa, and that he would submit without any ulterior design to the will of France. He is to reside in future at Broussa, in Turkey.

On the evening of the 22nd the President went in state to the *Théâtre Français*. The house was splendidly ornamented with trophies and emblematical decorations, and crowded with a vast assemblage of spectators. The Prince was received by the director, M. Houssaye, by whom he was conducted to his box; he was dressed in plain clothes, and wore the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour. The President was accompanied by Marshal Jerome Bonaparte, M. Drouyn de Lhuys, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, General de Saint Arnaud, Minister of War, and Generals Roguet and de Lourmel. The Princess Matilda occupied a box on the first tier; and most of the ministers and great officers of state were in the theatre. On the President's arrival the acclamations and plaudits of the audience were loud and general, and all the passages in the play, which was *Cornille's* "Cinna; ou la Clémence d'Auguste," that could be made to bear any allusion to the position of the Prince President, and passing events, were eagerly seized and warmly applauded by the audience. A little after the tragedy had terminated, the curtain rose and discovered Mlle. Rachel clad in white, with her waist encircled with laurel to represent the Muse of History. The whole of the company was ranged behind her, and at the bottom of the stage was a flag on which was to be seen an imperial crown with the name of Napoleon III. The great tragédienne then advanced, and, bending lowly before the Prince's box, recited stanzas, composed by M. Arsène Houssaye, for the occasion, entitled "L'Empire, c'est la Paix." The verses were not remarkable for anything but their very French tournure, and the extravagant fulsomeness of their adulation. The Prince is about to pay a similar visit to the Opera.

Favourable accounts are given of the commercial state of France. In Paris, manufacturers, shopkeepers, and tradesmen of all kinds anticipate an unusually brilliant winter. The country traders are making larger purchases than they have been in the habit of doing for some time. One sign of the good state of trade is to be found in the fact of the Paris manufacturers increasing the wages of their operatives in order to have a sufficient number of hands. It is, however, remarkable that no rise, at least none to any extent, has taken place in the value of the raw material, and whenever an attempt has been made it has been defeated by foreign competition. The improvement of trade in the capital and the provinces has been turned to account by the ironmasters, and reports relative to that particular branch of industry are favourable.

An attempt to escape has been made by some of the convicts stationed on the Isles du Salut, at Guyana. These islands, it appears are obliged to

procure their supplies of fresh water from the continent, and a schooner called the *Citerne* was employed for the purpose. One day, when this vessel was as usual about to discharge its cargo, several convicts resolved on the execution of a plot to possess themselves of it, and to sail away. As its crew was very small in number, it is probable they would have easily succeeded in their design; but the man-of-war, the *Duguesclin*, of 80 guns, at anchor in the roadstead, perceived what they were about, and sent several boats against them. The convicts resisted, and force was employed to subdue them. Several of them were wounded; two were stabbed so seriously by bayonets that they had to be conveyed to the hospital, and died in a short time.

At Madrid, on the 7th inst., funeral honours were paid to the memory of the Duke of Wellington, who was also Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo, and a captain-general of the Spanish army. At twelve o'clock the entire garrison of Madrid, in full dress, assembled before a mausoleum erected for the occasion, and there rendered all the honours to the memory of the Duke which is paid to a deceased captain-general. The troops afterwards defiled before the Captain-General of the Province, who was accompanied by the military governor and a numerous and brilliant staff. There was no religious ceremony, in consequence of the Duke having been a Protestant.

At Vienna, funeral honours have been paid to the memory of the Duke of Wellington, who was a field-marshal in the Austrian army, and decorated with the order of Maria Teresa. The whole garrison of Vienna assisted at the ceremony. The drums were muffled, the flags craped; the Emperor appeared in mourning at the head of his generals; and twelve batteries fired three rounds over the imaginary bier. Lord Westmorland was in attendance on the Emperor. A deputation consisting of a whole officer's corps, headed by their colonel, are to be sent to London to attend the funeral. A deputation will also be sent from the 27th Regiment of Prussian infantry, which the Duke commanded.

Letters from Vienna speak of shocking barbarities perpetrated in the Austrian dominions. "Every eight or nine days," says one account, "the second column of the 'Wiener Zeitung' contains what is here commonly called the 'bill of fare' of the Military Court, and the last which has been laid before the public is even less inviting than usual. Public opinion has so energetically and repeatedly condemned the system of flogging women, that the following extract will hardly fail to excite as much indignation abroad as it has done here:—'Elizabeth Hickmann, a machinist's wife, twelve stripes with a rod and eight days' arrest in irons in the military prison.' It appears, on inquiry, that the person subjected to this severe and ignominious punishment had been guilty of impertinence to a policeman or a soldier. This is the first time that a Vienna court-martial has sentenced a married woman and a mother to be flogged. It is but just to observe that even military men of the very highest rank are heartily tired and ashamed of a system which, to use their own language, 'can lead to no good.'

The opening of the Vienna Customs Congress, appointed for the 20th, was postponed in consequence of the absence of several delegates. M. Von Stockhausen, the new Hanoverian minister at the Austrian court, was admitted to present his credentials on the 21st. The Hanoverian government appears fairly to have sat down to wait the issue of the events now taking place in Vienna and Berlin. Its commissioner to the Zollverein conferences at Berlin was recalled on the 30th ult., and his post has since remained vacant. Letters from Hanover state, moreover, that an equal reticence is observed towards Austria, the invitation to send a representative to the Vienna conferences having been declined. The Vienna papers publish accounts of yet more extensive damage from the inundations in the south of the empire. At Fiume the American mill has been carried clean away by the flood, the proprietors sustaining a loss of 200,000 florins. The tobacco manufactory and the hospital also stand in the water. The district of Posavara is said to have suffered in a higher

degree than any other. Letters from Croatia state that the peasantry are reduced almost to despair.

By the intelligence from *Berlin*, it appears that the tariff question, between Prussia, as the head of the Zollverein, and of the German free-traders, and Austria, as patron of the Coalition States and the German protectionists, is at length approaching a crisis. The Coalition States are unwilling to carry on the negotiations any longer in the Berlin Conference, which has been sitting since May, as they differ with the Prussian ultimatum on vital points. But the Zollverein treaties have more than a year to run, not expiring until January, 1854. A note from the Coalition, or *Steuerverein*, not yet officially presented, appears in the journals; and Baron Manteuffel, writing on that information, definitively states that Prussia is willing to negotiate with the Coalition States, if they will only place him in a condition to do so by agreeing to the Prussian notions of the tariff, as contained in the declaration of the 30th August.

Accounts from the *Roman States* state that twenty-four persons have been executed at Sinigaglia, who had been sentenced to death by the *Sacra Consulta* at Rome, for political offences committed in 1848. The total number of prisoners implicated in the affair was sixty-five, of whom thirteen have succeeded in making their escape, and twenty-eight have been condemned to the galleys for life. The remainder, who were executed, underwent their punishment with great fortitude, crying "Viva Mazzini," and singing the *Marsellaise*. There was but one person among them belonging to the educated classes, Simoncelli, the merchant, who was first lieutenant of the civic guard, and had been nominated president of the Secret Tribunal, or *Vehme*. He had expected to the last that he would be pardoned. Some relatives of the Pope interested themselves in his behalf, but in vain. Before his death he requested the officer in command to order the soldiers to fire at his breast, and not his head. These sentences were executed, not by Austrian soldiers, but by Swiss troops of the Papal army.

The sentences on the persons tried at *Naples*, accused of being engaged in the insurrection of May, 1848, have been published. Seven have been condemned to death, six to be imprisoned in irons for periods of from thirty to twenty-five years, and twelve to various terms of imprisonment, from nine to two years. Thirty-seven more still remain in prison.

Archdeacon Cagnazzi, one of the accused in *Naples*, for the events of May, 1848, died a few days since in that city. He is known to Italian literature by several esteemed works on finance and political economy. The archdeacon left *Naples* when the reaction commenced, but from an invitation of the government returned. The police authorities then took him in charge, allowing him to remain in his own house, guarded night and day. The religious congregation to which he belonged refused to bury him, fearing to incur the displeasure of the authorities. To such a point is intimidation carried in *Naples*.

The Neapolitan Minister of Police, Peccheneda, and principal agent of the present government, is dead. He left the scene of his cruelty, detested and despised, on the 2nd of this month. He held a subordinate employment under government from his youth, and was once imprisoned for his liberal opinions. Peccheneda appeared whenever a government wanted an instrument of persecution. He was called to the councils of the king when the reaction took place, after 1848, and entrusted with the portfolio of minister of police. From that period, although at a very advanced age, he vigorously employed himself in persecuting the constitutional party; on the simple word of his spies, he has thrown thousands into prison, and ruined hundreds of families, besides doing infinite harm to the king and the monarchy. He had enriched himself by the spoils of his victims, and has left a fortune of 120,000 ducats. He had great influence with his Sicilian Majesty, whom he kept in perpetual fear of his life, by inventing plots which were too readily believed in.

The case of the *Macchiai*, a man and his wife, who have been condemned at *Florence* to four years' imprisonment with hard labour for having read the Bible, has excited a great sensation. They are described as an honest and industrious couple. *Macchiai* had been a travelling courier; his wife a lady's-maid, many years in the service of English families. In the summer of 1851 they had set up, with a little capital saved out of their wages, a boarding-house in the *Piazza Santa Maria Novella*. There, from their English connexions, being suspected of a Protestant bias, they were suddenly arrested on the charge of heresy, and their little establishment broken up. A Bible was found under a sofa-pillow, and for presuming to have read it to others, after a mock trial, they have been condemned. There was no suspicion, charge, or implication of moral or political criminality attaching to the case. The public prosecutor frankly declared at the trial that there was no such accusation whatever, and that the prosecution was wholly and avowedly for the religion of the Established Church of Tuscany.

The Shah of *Persia* has narrowly escaped assassination. While he was hunting near *Tehrán*, on the 15th of August, six ill-dressed Persians, belonging to the sect of *Babi*, a religious chief put to death some time since, approached the Shah with petitions. Having presented them, they demanded redress for the insult to their religion. Two seized the bridle of his horse; and before the attendants, who, according to the Persian custom, were waiting at a distance, came up, two of the assassins fired their pistols. The Shah was slightly wounded in the cheek and thigh, but retained his seat. His servants arrived at a gallop, cut down two of the assassins, and pursued and captured one. Three escaped; but they were afterwards found in a well, and cut to pieces. Next day, thanks were offered up in the grand Mosque of *Tehrán* for the escape of the Shah, and in the evening the city was illuminated. All the Corps Diplomatique waited on the Shah to congratulate him. *Hajee Suleiman Khan*, accused as the instigator of the crime, was seized, his body carefully drilled with a knife in parts which would not at the moment cause death; pieces of lighted candles were then introduced into the holes, and, thus illuminated, carried in procession through the bazaar, and finally conveyed to the town gates, and there cleft in twain, like a fat ram.

The Swedish journals publish the following narrative. About ten days ago, a Madame Nilssen, wife of a brewer of the highest respectability, at *Odesta*, feeling that she was about to die, sent for Mr. Ringk, the Lutheran clergyman of the parish, and, having caused every one to leave the room, confessed, with much anguish of mind, that about twenty-five years ago she and her husband had murdered their infant child. She said that Nilssen had seduced her, and that they subsequently married contrary to the wish of their parents. As in Sweden a young unmarried woman who has acted improperly with a man is profoundly despised, even though she marry before a child be born, her husband proposed to her to kill the infant. She received the proposition with horror; but he insisted, and she at last consented. They retired to an isolated house, at some distance from the town, and there she was delivered. Her husband suffocated the child, and buried the body in a field. She described the precise spot where the interment took place. A few hours after stating these facts, she died. As in the Lutheran Church confessions are not considered inviolably secret, M. Ringk informed the authorities of what Madame Nilssen had said. A search was made in the field, and the skeleton of the child was found. Thereupon M. Nilssen was arrested. He has filled the highest municipal offices in the town, and has always been noted for his benevolence.

New York papers have been received to the 9th inst. They are chiefly occupied with questions of domestic politics, especially the approaching presidential election. The candidates are General Scott, Mr. Webster, and General Pierce. General Scott appears to have the most favourable prospects.

The memory of General Lopez was honoured at New Orleans on the 1st of September, the anniversary of his death, by a torchlight procession. The column was headed by companies of soldiers, followed by the returned Cuban prisoners, bearing a large illumination inscribed "Beaten, but not conquered;" then a hearse, on whose sides were written the names of "Lopez," "Crittenden," "Kerr" and others; after these, a host of firemen and citizens, bands of Lone Star men, the whole being closed by "well-known citizens on horseback and in carriages," saith the New Orleans "Piaeyune." During the advance, bands played the Lopez Dead March; the streets were lined, the houses were crowded with spectators; "an orator" addressed the mass; and the commemoration closed with a religious service at the cathedral.

The papers contain reports of a sitting of the *Women's Rights Convention*, lately held at Syracuse, which extended over three days. A number of resolutions were passed, asserting the rights of women to "the emancipation of their sex from all the slaveries of law and custom which hitherto have made and kept them incapable of their heaven-appointed mission." In defining the rights for which they were striving, and which "they intended to obtain," Mrs. J. Elizabeth Jones, of Ohio, said the chief point of their demand was "the right to vote: that included all other rights. She was anxious to obtain a seat in the legislative hall, on the judicial bench, or to fill the chair of the executive. For herself, she was not one of those who talked much about women's rights. She took them without saying anything about them." Mr. Governor Brigham, the great "light" of the Mormon community, raised a slight storm by expressing his conviction "that the feminine element in human nature was, in all respects, a subjective element, and the masculine the executive." The ladies would not admit the truth of the proposition. A woman was equal to a man at any time, and had as much right to take a part in the deliberations of the state, the administration of the law, in the dispensing of physic, or in anything else connected with the social state. The effervescence which had been called into action by Mr. Brigham's expression was increased to a boiling agitation by a rev. gentleman, named Hatch, having the audacity to tell this assemblage of strong-minded women, "that the feminine element which gave to the softer sex all their influence and consideration was a modesty in raiment, and a retiring disposition which prevented them coming forward in public with the shrill clarion or brazen trumpet; and that true woman was like the modest violet, half concealed, rather than the sunflower, which glares upon everybody, and calls upon men to admire it." Some further remarks from the same gentleman raised such a hubbub about his ears that he was glad to make a precipitate retreat, whereupon the "ladies" cheered vehemently. The business was wound up by the singing a doxology, and the convention was adjourned *sine die*.

The latest accounts from *California* are of a favourable character. There have been fewer murders and other outrages since the last steamer sailed than for some time past, and in general the state of affairs was far more encouraging. The news from the mines continue to be very cheering; it is anticipated that the yield of gold during the next two months will be immense. Large numbers of persons were pouring into California overland. Measures for the independence of Lower California were progressing. Gold discoveries had been made in the eastern range of Sierra Nevada. The money market at San Francisco was in a most favourable condition, and the receipts of gold dust on the increase. The other markets were moderately active, though several descriptions of goods had declined in price.

In *Cuba*, great animosity is manifested towards the American government. So strict is the espionage observed, that two English officers, attached to a British steamer, having, during a walk, pointed to the fortifications in sight, were arrested and imprisoned on suspicion of being flibustiers taking observations. The

British Consul procured their immediate release. The luggage of passengers is strictly overhauled for newspapers, and sometimes private letters are opened and read. Letter-bags containing correspondence for delivery, by American vessels, are examined. An additional secret police-officer has been placed in every American vessel entering Havannah, but not in vessels of other nations.

The town of St. Jago, at the western end of the island of *Cuba*, was visited by a tremendous earthquake in the night of the 20th of August. Several severe shocks had taken place during the day, which created great alarm among the people of the town, a large and populous place, containing 40,000 inhabitants; but the great shock was felt between two and three in the morning. The motion was undulating, and to this perhaps is owing that more edifices were not destroyed. This single shock would, in all probability, have caused more destruction to persons than all the preceding ones had caused, in consequence of the hour at which it happened; but others having previously occurred, made all the inhabitants alert, and thus it was that few had to come out of their houses, and perhaps not a single one out of bed. In the harbour the earthquake was perceptible by a strange motion of the water, which boiled, producing phosphoric bubbles, and followed by a fetor so intense as to take away respiration. In the Plaza de la Catedral all the lights were instantly extinguished, and the immense multitude then there was environed in the thickest darkness. In that of Santo Thomas the priest was preparing to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice, when the horrible shaking was felt, and which plunged into the deepest dejection all the faithful who were praying. The scenes which passed in the streets were not less terrible. The few who had had courage enough to remain within their houses, rushed frightened along the streets, without being restrained either by the profound obscurity, the copious rain, the fury of the wind, the ruins of the falling buildings, the state of their health, or the uncertainty of the road they were following. On the following day there was another serious shock, and, from the 22nd to the 28th, shocks continued to be felt, which kept the inhabitants in constant alarm. From the first shock, on the 20th, to the 23rd, the town was deserted, with the exception of the Plazas. Nearly all the houses were closed, and the streets, which at another time are so busy, were only occasionally trod by one or two individuals, who took good care to pass in the middle, fearful of some building falling upon them. The Plazas were occupied by an immense multitude, praying without ceasing; the beach appeared as an encampment, the most distinguished families having sought hospitality from the inhabitants of the huts. The part nearest the sea presents nothing but ruins: few are the houses which have not been thrown out of the perpendicular, and many will have to be rebuilt, at least in a great part. In the rest of the town the consequences of the earthquake have been less sensible, which may be attributed to the greater solidity of the foundations. The large edifices, such as the churches, barracks, palace, gaol, &c., have suffered more, as was natural, than the lesser ones. The higher houses, too, more than the lower; those of stone, brick, &c., than those of wood; in all, the outer walls and cornices have suffered more than the rest of the edifice. The south portion has suffered more than the northern, which added to the news received from Saltadero, Baracoa, Gibara, Bayamo, and Manzanillo, leaves no doubt that the earthquake has been more felt from 20 degrees of north latitude to the Equator, than from the 20 degrees to the Tropic of Cancer.

An *Ambassador from Pitcairn's Island* has arrived in London, bringing despatches from Rear-Admiral Moresby, which contain some interesting information respecting the island first peopled by the mutineers of the *Bounty*. The admiral visited the island in August last. He says:—

"It is impossible to do justice to the spirit of order and decency that animates the whole community, whose number amounts to 170, strictly brought up in the Protestant faith, according to the Established Church of England, by Mr. Nobbs, their pastor and surgeon, who has for twenty-four years zealously

and successfully, by precept and example, raised them to a state of the highest moral conduct and feeling. Of fruits and edible roots they have at present abundance, which they exchange with the whalers for clothing, oil, medicine, and other necessities; but the crops on the tillage ground begin to deteriorate, land-slips occur with each succeeding storm, and the declivities of the hills, when denuded, are laid bare by the periodical rains. Their diet consists of yams, sweet potatoes, and bread-fruit; a small quantity of fish is occasionally caught; their pigs supply annually upon an average about 50 lb. of meat to each individual; and they have a few goats and fowls. Their want of clothing and other absolute necessities is very pressing, and I am satisfied that the time has arrived when preparation, at least, must be made for the future, seven or eight years being the most that can be looked forward to for a continuance of their present means of support. The summary of the year 1851 gives—births, 12; deaths, 2; marriages, 3. On their return from Tahiti they numbered about sixty, of whom there were married thirteen couple; the rest from the age of sixteen to infancy. Mr. Nobbs was anxious to avail himself of my offer to convey him to Valparaiso, and thence enable him to proceed to England, for the purpose of obtaining ordination. At a general meeting of the inhabitants their consent was given, provided I would leave the chaplain of the Portland until Mr. Nobbs returned; the advantage is so obvious that I feel confident their Lordships will approve my consenting. From the anxiety which has been expressed by high authorities of the Church for Mr. Nobbs' ordination, I anticipate that it will be effected with so little delay that he will be enabled to return to Valparaiso by the middle of January."

Mr. Nobbs, who is referred to in the above despatch, and is now in London, is described as an intelligent, kind, and open-hearted man. He landed at Pitcairn's Island six months before John Adams died; he there-

fore knew that very remarkable man, and succeeded him as schoolmaster, minister, and physician, to one of the most interesting colonies the world perhaps ever saw. He describes the present descendants of the mutineers, who form now the third and fourth generation from them, as remarkable for their personal beauty, and for their "evangelical religious principles." The Sunday is kept most reverentially. The Christian law of marriage is scrupulously observed by them, and the marriage ceremony is one of great solemnity. Their chief magistrate is elected on the 1st of January of every year. All persons, male and female, above the age of 18, vote at the election. The largest amount of specie that was ever on the island was 200 dollars value. This was just about the time when the intercourse first sprung up between Australia and California. With this sum two large boats were purchased. The boats, however, which the natives use ordinarily for fishing are very small, and are carried about on their shoulders. If they upset, no serious accident ensues, as the islanders are all admirable swimmers. The only animals on the island are fowls, goats, and hogs. The place is not large enough to rear animals of greater magnitude. Their agricultural implements are the spade and hoe. If they could obtain a cession of Norfolk Island, it would not be long, it is believed, before they would migrate thither, as they are anxious to grow wheat and rear herbivorous animals. The inhabitants of Pitcairn's Island are now subject to bilious disorders, which their envoy thinks is owing to their subsisting so much on the sweet potato.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE publishing season has begun, but as yet its promises have greater interest than its performances. The Chevalier Bunsen's *Hippolytus and his Age* is a book addressed to a limited class of readers; but for these it will have a charm. It is the result of a discovery made by M. Bunsen a year ago, when he applied his critical learning to a treatise published as Origen's by the University of Oxford, and discovered that it was not Origen's at all, but a genuine production of Hippolytus, not only one of the earliest Christian bishops, but one whose teaching was in a direct line and connection with that of St. John. Many interesting and instructive considerations arose out of this discovery, relating to purity of doctrine, absurdity of Roman Catholic pretensions, and yet more egregious folly of "Anglican" imitations thereof; which make the Chevalier's book well worthy of perusal. Other books, not distinctly related by their bearing and design to similar studies, have also appeared during the month. Such as the second part of the Rev. Mr. Forster's *One Primeval Language*; Doctor Richard Lepsius's *Discoveries in Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Peninsula of Sinai*; a translation of M. Victor Cousin's *Course of the History of Modern Philosophy*; the Rev. Mr. Shepherd's Letter to the Rev. S. R. Maitland *On the Writings of Cyprion, Bishop of Carthage*; and new editions of Bishop Ken's *Approach to the Altar* and *Exposition of the Creed*.

Of course several lives of *The Duke of Wellington* have been begun, and some indeed already have been completed. Miss Strickland has also commenced, in her series of Scottish Queens, a biography of *Mary Stuart*, strongly leaning to the most favourable construction of her character. *The Cloister Life of the Emperour Charles V.* is a more novel contribution to biographical research, illustrating by highly curious as well as agreeable details an out-of-the-way nook both in character and history. It is the work of Mr. Stirling, whose book about Spanish art and artists was so lively and well-informed. Mr. Morley's *Palissy the Potter* is another very welcome investigation into unexplored regions of biography, bringing forth into full view a remarkable old Frenchman, who observed nature, wrote philosophy, and made astonishingly beautiful earthenware, at a time when the most part of his countrymen were plunged in ignorance and wickedness, committing massacres of St. Bartholomew, and otherwise disagreeably disporting

themselves. Mr. Bohn has published a new and cheap edition of Foster's *Life and Correspondence*, which will be gladly received by the dissenting community in which he taught with such authority and zeal.

Connected with travels and general literature, the books of any interest have not been numerous. A Polish lady of quality has published her *Revelations of Siberia*, but as the revelations had undergone the Russian censorship before they were published, it can easily be supposed that there is nothing very horrible in them. A translation of the book written by the Hungarian General and so-called traitor, Arthur Görgei, *My Life and Acts in Hungary*, has been issued by Mr. Bogue; and another General in the Hungarian army, George Kmetz, has put forth *A Refutation of Görgei's Misstatements*. In the Illustrated Library there has appeared a translation of Madame Ida Pfeiffer's very lively *Visit to the Holy Land, Egypt, and Italy*. Captain Doveton has written his *Reminiscences of the Burmese War* by way of comment on the new war lately broken out. Under the title of *Phaeton*, Mr. Kingsley has favoured the world with what he calls "loose thoughts for loose thinkers." Mr. Knight has given us a useful *Pocket Cyclopædia* of inventions and curiosities in arts and manufactures. Another illustrated edition, by a German resident in Edinburgh, has been added to those already existing of *The Story of Reynard the Fox*; and some dozen or more new editions of the history of that very different character, *Uncle Tom*, have kept gleaming in the harvest of a most extraordinary success. Some stories of crime and criminal jurisprudence have been collected by Mr. Burke as *The Romance of the Forum*. Mr. Bayle St. John has put some attractive personal experiences into his *Village Life in Egypt*; and Mr. Lear has enriched with a series of very picturesque lithographic drawings his *Journals of a Landscape Painter in Southern Calabria*.

In fiction we have had Mrs. Trollope's *Uncle Walter*, Mr. Savage's *Reuben Medlicott*, a tale called the *Vicage of Elwood*, another story of sorrowful American experience with the title of *The White Slave*, and additional volumes of the new library edition of the *Waverley Novels*. To history the only additions have been a narrative of *The Holy, Military, Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem*; and a new volume of Lamartine's *Restoration*.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the London Gazette of Sept. 28th.—T. RUSSELL and J. MUSGROVE, Norwich, sack-manufacturers.—W. M. HARKER, Little Moorfields, currier.—J. R. COLLETT, Princes-street, Hanover-square, milliner.—J. WINTER, Holborn-hill, clothier.

Oct. 1st.—R. PITT, East Donnyland, Essex, shipowner.—W. PROSSER, Shoreditch, draper.—T. W. SHARLAND, Liverpool, tea-broker.—E. T. BRADSHAW, Manchester, dealer in bricks.

Oct. 5th.—J. and W. AUGUST, Norwich, builders.—J. MOREWOOD, Fludyer-street, Westminster, merchant.—J. MARLOW, Walsall, Staffordshire, iron-founder.—J. GUEST, Burslem, victualler.—J. B. BOON, Burslem, woollen-draper.—G. ROWELL, jun., Carlisle, painter.

Oct. 8th.—J. J. MOREWOOD, Fludyer-street, Westminster, merchant.—E. and H. G. WINSTANLEY, Poultry, chemists.—T. ROE, Suffolk-place, Islington, upholster.—W. STEEL, Birmingham, inn-keeper.—R. SHELTON, Wellington, Shropshire, saddler.—F. LEVIN, Ragland, engineer.—J. G. HARRISON, Liverpool, dealer in locks.—A. ASTLEY, Manchester, glass-dealer.—J. RHODES, jun., Oldham, tailor.

Oct. 12th.—W. WELLINGTON and R. BUTTERFIELD, Brighton, lacemen.—R. TAMSEY, Woolwich, builder.—G. GARDNER, Woolwich, ironmonger.—J. PRIMACOMBE, Falmouth, wine-merchant.—I. ISAACS, Plymouth, dealer in watches.—H. COWIE, Liverpool, shipowner.—S. LANGFORD, Hyde, Cheshire, ironmonger.

Oct. 15th.—S. DAINES, New Bond-street, hosier.—A. DAWSON, Charles-street, Mile-end New Town, engineer.—J. HOGARTH, Rotherhithe-street, iron-merchant.—A. PICKETT, Brighton, brick-maker.—C. H. CANNING, Birmingham, draper.—W. SMITH, Bolton-le-Moors, grocer.

Oct. 19th.—R. T. TUBES, Holywell-street, Shoreditch, haberdasher.—W. AUSTIN, the Grove, Great Guildford-street, iron-founder.—A. B. WALL, Bishop's-road, Bayswater, apothecary.—C. LEE, Park-street, Oxford-street, baker.—J. PRIMACOMBE, Falmouth, wine-merchant.—A. L. STOCKS, Huddersfield, draper.—R. M'BERNIE, Wetherby, Yorkshire, grocer.—T. BELL and A. CHAMP, Liverpool, provision-dealers.—W. LOWCOCK, Bootle, butcher.—G. SMITH, Liverpool, tailor.

Oct. 22nd.—T. MEDLEY, Bermondsey-street, horse-hair-manufacturer.—J. OLIVER, Liverpool, linen-draper.—T. CROOK, Preston, manufacturer.—T. YOUNG, Hartlepool, grocer.

Oct. 26th.—C. J. ASHTON, Fenchurch-street, merchant.—J. OLDFIELD, Fleet-street, licensed victualler.—C. CLARKE, Walham-green, Fulham, market-gardener.—C. GREENFIELD, Brighton, chemist.—J. B. NICKLIN, Wolverhampton, ironmonger.—W. H. STAFFORD, Sheffield, painter.—W. J. PERRIN, Liverpool, merchant.—J. KING, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, mealman.—W. BRIGGS, Fife, Yorkshire, hotel-keeper.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Sept. 28th.—T. JENKINS, Tredegar, Monmouthshire, innkeeper.

Oct. 12th.—G. MORTON, Crown-wharf, Great Scotland-yard, coal-merchant.—J. HICK, Wakefield, corn-merchant.

MONEY MARKET.

The Stock Market has been firm during the month, the fluctuations having been very slight. The three per cent. consols have never been lower than 99½, nor higher than 100½. The closing prices on the 26th inst. were 100½ to 100½ for money, and 100½ to 100½ for the account of the 11th November.

In the Foreign Market there has been considerable activity, with steady prices.

Railway shares have undergone very little fluctuation, and a good deal of business has been transacted in them.

STOCKS.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	100½	99½	100½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	99½	99½	99½
Three and a quarter per Cents. .	103½	103½	103½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 . . .	6½	6	6½
Bank Stock	225	220½	224
Exchange Bills	78	67	77 7/8
India Stock	279	274	276

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Brazilian 5 per cent., 100½	Peruvian 6 per cent., defd. 103
Chilian 3 per cent., 76	Portuguese 4 per cent., 38½
Danish 3 per cent., 83	Russian 4½ per cent., 104½
Spanish 3 p. cent. certificates, 90½	Spanish 3 per cent., 51½
Mexican 3 per cent., 24½	Sardinian, 5 per cent., 97½

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	105½	103½	105½
all	Blackwall	8½	8½	8½
St. 100	Caledonian	53½	44½	53½
all	Eastern Counties	124	118	124
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow .	75½	70	75½
" 100	Great Northern	82	75½	82
" 100	Great Western	96½	95½	96
" 100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	88½	83½	88½
" 100	London & North-Western	120	116½	120
" 100	Midland	78½	76½	78
" 100	North British	38½	37½	38½
" 100	South-Eastern and Dover.	80	72	80
" 100	York, Newc., and Berwick	69½	67	69½
" 100	York and North Midland.	53	49½	53

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Rouen, 38½
East Indian, 8½ pm.	Paris and Strasbourg, 31½
Namur and Liege, 8	Rouen and Havre, 18½
Northern of France, 32	Tours and Nantes, 13½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 37s. to 50s.; Barley, 24s. to 36; Oats, 17s. to 22s.; Rye, 30s. to 32s.; Beans, 34s.; Peas, 30s. to 40s.; Flour, (town made), delivered, 30s. to 40s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., sides, 48s. to 54s.; middles, 51s. to 53s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 70s. to 80s.; Irish, 50s. to 74s.; Westphalia, 44s. to 50s.
Beef, per 8 lb. mid to prime, 2s. 4d. to 3s. 8d.	Mutton, per 8 lb. mid to prime, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.
Butter, per cwt.—Cork, 78s. to 80s.; Waterford, 1st, 70s. to 76s.; Dutch Friesland, 82s. to 86s.; Limerick, 72s. to 76s.	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 60s. to 72s.; Kent and Essex middling, 55s. to 70s.; Chats, 22s. to 24s.
Cheese, per cwt., Cheshire, 44s. to 66s.; Wiltshire, double, 36s. to 58s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 28s. to 36s.; American, 32s. to 44s.; Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.	Pork, 2s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.
	Veal, per 8 lb., 2s. 8d. to 4s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 31s. to 44s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 28s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Jamaica 30s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 26s. to 32s.; Brazil, 31s. 6d. to 40s.
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 45s. to 95s.; Mocha, 56s. to 92s.; Sumatra, 34s. to 37s.; Java, 42s. to 46s.	Tea, per lb. (duty 2s. 1d. and 5 per cent.)—Ord. to good Congou, 9½d. to 1s. 6d.; Souchong, com. to fine, 9½d. to 1s. 10d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 1s. 1d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal fine white, 10s. 3d. to 12s. 0d.; Madras, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.; Patna, cleaned, 12s. to 18s.	
Candles, per 12 lb., 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	Coals, per ton, 14s. 3d. to 22s. 6d.

OILS.

Pale Sella, per 252 gals., 34½ 10s.	Olive, Gallipoli per ton, 55l.
Sperm, 86l. to 87l.	Linsseed, per cwt., 27l. 15s. to 25l.
Cod, 35l.	
Palm, per cwt., 29s. to 30s.	

THE HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.] FROM THE 27TH OCTOBER TO THE 26TH NOVEMBER. [PRICE 2d.

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

ENGLAND'S greatest general now lies buried by the side of her greatest admiral, in the heart of the city which their valour protected, and which their example will continue to guard. The orderly and quiet conduct of the people who thronged the streets on the day of the military pageant that accompanied the Duke's remains to the grave, formed an act of homage to the great soldier's memory transcending infinitely the mere state ceremonial. It was the sincere and deep expression of a feeling full of reverence. If our clever Chancellor of the Exchequer, pronouncing the Ministerial eulogium on the hero, could but have felt in the house of commons something of what the hard-handed London artisans felt in the streets, a discreditable exposure might have been spared to him. Words suited to his emotion would not have been wanting in that case, nor his memory have been taxed for second-hand praise. Apart from the moral delinquency of appropriating another man's thoughts as one's own, which Mr. Disraeli in his speech so flagrantly committed, it has not been sufficiently remarked of this now celebrated speech that it was in every other respect also a miracle of bad taste. The key-note of all its praise was struck in two lines of absolute nonsense, in which the orator begged his hearers to remark that the greatness of the Duke's exploits was perhaps surpassed by the difficulties he had to encounter—as if the two things were separable, and the very measure of greatness were not precisely the difficulties met in achieving it. Afterwards enumerating these difficulties, Mr. Disraeli displayed his knowledge of history by asserting that the invincible army which the Duke had created, "worthy of the Roman legions and of himself" (an odd parallel of worthies), was *broken up* on the eve of the greatest conjuncture of his life:—when he ought to have known that the Peninsular army was not broken up at all, but had simply set sail for the United States on the breaking out of the second American War. Then, still pursuing that argument of praise, and speaking absolutely within hearing of envoys from Russia, Prussia, Portugal, and Spain who had come over to represent at the funeral the powers combined against Napoleon, the leader and first minister in our English house of commons had the taste to count among the Duke's difficulties, his "scandalous allies." But even more egregious was the allusion to France. At a time when by common consent every source of irritating reference should have been religiously closed—even M. Bonaparte having so far done homage to the occasion as to command his ambassador's presence in St. Paul's—Mr. Disraeli threw out from his place as minister the insulting assertion, that the Duke of Wellington had the same right as Napoleon to be called the "subjugator" of France. Is it conceivable that the Duke himself would ever have advanced such a claim?

At the time Mr. Disraeli was thus betraying great inaptitude for the office he holds, the urns were

opening throughout France to lift M. Bonaparte to the office he has so long coveted; and in the short interval since, they have been filled and have been emptied, and the farce of professed election is over, and the hero of Strasburg, Boulogne, and Satory, is become Napoleon the Third. The new Emperor has a retentive memory, and there can hardly be a doubt that the word "subjugate" will be faithfully stored up in it.

Contemporaneous with the Imperial triumph has been the subjection of the popular oppositions in Belgium and in Piedmont, the last places on the continent of Europe where the forms of constitutional government survived. All the capitals where freedom once dared lift its head have now capitulated, happy if they managed to escape being first sacked and bombarded. All the printing presses are under censorship. Exile or the dungeon has disposed of the troublesome classes by thousands and hundreds of thousands. Popery is aggressive and triumphant, the priests have got education wholly into their hands, nowhere in Italy can the Bible now be read, the Jesuits are masters everywhere, and *at last* France announces herself satisfied. The good folks who adopt the inference that therefore the world must be tranquil, point to the fact that even M. Kossuth finds his vocation to be so utterly gone that he positively declines to make a speech. This curious occurrence took place at a late meeting in London, where, however, what few words M. Kossuth *did* say, had sufficient significance to be worthy of special note. "There is a time and a season," he remarked, "for everything in the world. There is a time and a season to speak, and there is a time and a season to be silent. You English are happy. You may hope to carry all that you require by the peaceful means of the free word. For us, we can carry nothing with words. And therefore I have taken,—as a duty I have taken,—the rule, that for the future I have only a single speech, which is reserved for the due time, and which, depend upon it, shall be spoken in due time. That only speech is, *Up, boys, and at them!*"

Well, if the pregnant threat implied here should have given a twinge to any of the continental despots, their equanimity will probably be restored at hearing through their respective embassies of the grand debate which has been going on in our English House of Commons as a sequel to a precisely similar threat thrown out but a little year ago by the Prime Minister of England. "If there be but one district," said Lord Derby to his Chowlers and Fosketts assembled in great force in 1851, "in which a suspicion is entertained that I am flinching from, or hesitating in, my advocacy of those principles on which I stood, in conjunction with my talented friend Lord George Bentinck, I authorise you, one and all, to assure those whom you represent, that in me they will find no hesitation, no flinching, *no change of opinion*. I only look for the moment when it may be possible for me to use the memorable

words of the Duke of Wellington on the field of Waterloo, and say, *Up guards and at 'em!*" At whom? Alas, this is found to make all the difference. The charge is now being made with a vengeance; but it is the Bookers, and Balls, and Chowlers, and Youngs, and Fosketts that are rolling head over heels down the hill. But the retribution will hardly be complete, or the pure and great memory of Peel avenged against his defamers and persecutors, until the whole troop of ministers shall be seen rolling and tumbling after the poor miserable dupes they have betrayed. Lord Palmerston has saved them for the present, but sooner or later this cannot fail to be the issue. Meanwhile Mr. Disraeli must be content with the fame of the epithet which the *Times*, no very hostile critic in his case on any occasion, has not been able to resist fixing on him. There was once an eminent man in our history who, famous for cheating the very tools who were his instruments for cheating others, seemed to one of the first wits of this island to realise and embody in himself "the very superlative degree of greatness." Of such, according to the leading journal, is the present greatness of our Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is the Jonathan Wild of Protection. The eminent man in question had the art to select for his instruments persons on whom devolved the responsibility for everything he planned; and while on the one hand he was always ready to urge them to fresh exploits in the calling they had selected, on the other he was equally prompt to disavow their deeds, and hand them over to condign punishment whenever justice became importunate for a victim. Thus did he occupy, pursues the author of this close comparison, a kind of intermediate station; partly as the head of a gang of thieves, and partly as a kind of detective or assistant in the administration of justice; contriving to maintain himself in his dangerous position by the dexterous alternation of these two characters, for now he encouraged his gang by his countenance and assistance, and again quelled their insubordination by the menace of betraying them. We all know, however, what became of Jonathan Wild at last; and the parallel not obscurely points at the ignominious close which sooner or later must attend every career not guided or sustained by sincerity and honour.

It is one of the penalties of a statesman in a free country that he cannot hope to escape such comment as this when his conduct happens to expose him to it. "Whatever may take place elsewhere," said the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench in full court a few days ago, "I trust that this country will be able to continue to boast that we have a free press, and that questions of history, modern and ancient, may be freely discussed by anybody without any apprehension of a criminal information. The authorities in the old books, when the law of libel was not settled, or when it was tyrannically and vexatiously settled, which laid it down that to impute to any high officer of the Crown that he was incompetent for his office was libellous on the government, because such a statement brought disgrace on the government itself, have long ago been exploded. There can be no impropriety in calling in question the competency of any public functionary for the due and efficient discharge of his duty." No; nor can there be any impropriety in going farther than this, and calling in question, not simply the competency, but the morality, of any set of public functionaries, who propose deliberately to do, for the sordid sake of retaining office, what they persecuted and almost hunted to death a great statesman for doing, though in the act, which to him was one of sacred duty, he sacrificed office, friendship, and all that men ordinarily value.

Lord Campbell's remark was made on the occasion

of refusing a criminal information against the *Quarterly Review*, applied for by Sir Charles Napier on the ground of a libel in reference to his administration of Scinde. It was quite right that this should be refused; but it seems difficult to understand why a refusal should not also have been given in the same court, on the previous day, to an application to re-open the odious and noisome details of the case of Achilli and Newman. A new trial was there granted, not on any ground that appears to carry weight with it; not because the judge had refused evidence that should have been admitted, or because he had misdirected the jury as to the value of the facts deposed to by the witnesses; but simply because the jury had given a verdict against the "weight of evidence." Now who are to judge of the weight of evidence if not the jury? Evidently this was a case in which that function devolved to them; for the evidence on either side was as abundant as the swearing was hard. The principle is full of danger which would permit the re-consideration of such a case on such grounds; for certainly, if Lord Campbell now thinks that the weight of evidence was against the prosecutor, it was his duty more emphatically to have said so when he summed up at the trial. Whatever may be the jury now called to try the case again, they will sit under the express disadvantage of having received from the whole Queen's Bench of judges a direction to view the evidence with a certain bias; which they will either submit to do, or will show a not unreasonable determination *not* to do, by flying to the opposite extreme.

The subject of Convocation is naturally recalled by the mention of a religious quarrel. Notwithstanding the excitement of public feeling opposed to any such pretences or claims of churchmen, the Archbishop of Canterbury has, during the past month, absolutely permitted Convocation to show signs of life by hesitating to put in force his right of prorogation till after motions had been made, resolutions passed, and addresses voted, both in the upper and lower house. The immediate result has been paltry enough, consisting simply of a parcel of pretentious common-places, interlarded with squabbling interchanges of bad words, that would not have done much credit to the debating club of the upper boys at Eton. But it may be feared that the troublesome party in the church have received so much strength and encouragement even from these proceedings, that it will be difficult to restrain them from future mischief.—Let us add a final and pleasant word on another subject with which a particular set of churchmen have also been meddling disagreeably. With a very manifold disregard of cant, and in a manner highly honourable to his feelings and judgment, Lord Derby has publicly stated his opinion that the opening, under certain restrictions, of the Sydenham Crystal Palace on Sundays, instead of being a desecration of the Sabbath, will be of "great advantage to the population of this overcrowded metropolis, by enabling them to avail themselves on a Sunday afternoon of the innocent recreation and amusement provided for them in the beautiful grounds attached to it, by giving them fresh air, and promoting moral and social improvement among them." These are well chosen words, and will probably be remembered to Lord Derby's credit when his protectionist eloquence has been long forgotten.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

PARLIAMENT was opened on Thursday the 4th instant by a Royal Commission, consisting of the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Northumberland, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Duke of Montrose, and the Earl of

Lonsdale. The Commons, summoned by Sir Augustus Clifford, advanced to the bar, headed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Packington, and Sir Denis Le Marchant, the Chief Clerk. The Royal writ having been read, the LORD CHANCELLOR informed the Commons, that they would hereafter know the cause of calling this Parliament together; but that they must first choose a Speaker for their House, and present him there on Friday for her Majesty's approval. The Commons then withdrew, and the Lords adjourned during pleasure; only to resume the sitting in order that such Peers as presented themselves might take the oaths. The Prime Minister was not present.

On Friday, the 5th, Mr. Shaw Lefevre attended, to apprise the Royal Commissioners that the House of Commons had chosen him as their Speaker, and to make the usual demand of constitutional rights and privileges. The LORD CHANCELLOR announced her Majesty's approbation of the choice of the Commons, and that all constitutional rights and privileges were conceded.

On Thursday, the 11th, the Queen attended parliament in person, to deliver the *Speech from the Throne*, which was as follows:—

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I cannot meet you for the first time after the dissolution of parliament without expressing my deep sorrow, in which I am sure you will participate, that your deliberations can no longer be aided by the counsels of that illustrious man whose great achievements have exalted the name of England, and in whose loyalty and patriotism the interests of my throne and my people ever found an unflinching support. I rely with confidence on your desire to join me in taking such steps as may mark your sense of the irreparable loss which the country has sustained by the death of Arthur Duke of Wellington.

"I am happy to acknowledge the readiness with which my subjects in general have come forward, in pursuance of the act of last session, to join the ranks of the militia; and I confidently trust that the force thus raised by voluntary enlistment will be calculated to give effective aid to my regular army for the protection and security of the country.

"I continue to receive from all foreign powers assurances of their anxious desire to maintain the friendly relations now happily subsisting with my government.

"Frequent and well-founded complaints on the part of my North American colonies, of infractions, by citizens of the United States, of the Fishery Convention of 1818, induced me to despatch, for the protection of their interests, a class of vessels better adapted to the service than those which had been previously employed. This step has led to discussions with the government of the United States; and while the rights of my subjects have been firmly maintained, the friendly spirit in which the question has been treated induces me to hope that the ultimate result may be a mutually beneficial extension and improvement of our commercial intercourse with that great republic.

"The Special Mission, which, in concert with the Prince President of the French republic, I deemed it right to send to the Argentine Confederation, has been received with the utmost cordiality, and the wise and enlightened policy of the Provisional Director has already opened to the commerce of the world the great rivers hitherto closed, which afford an access to the interior of the vast continent of South America.

"I have the satisfaction of announcing to you, that the sincere and zealous efforts of the government of Brazil for the suppression of the Slave Trade, now nearly extinguished on that coast, have enabled me to suspend the stringent measures which I had been compelled reluctantly to adopt, a recurrence to which I anxiously hope may be proved to be unnecessary.

"The government of her Most Faithful Majesty have fully recognised the justice of the claim which my government have long urged for the abolition of the discriminating duties on the export of wine, and have passed a decree for giving complete effect to the stipulations of the treaty on this subject.

"You will probably deem it advisable to resume the inquiries which were commenced by the late parliament,

with a view to legislation on the subject of the future government of my East Indian possessions.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"The estimates for the ensuing year will in due time be laid before you.

"The advancement of the Fine Arts and of Practical Science will be readily recognised by you, as worthy of the attention of a great and enlightened nation. I have directed that a comprehensive scheme shall be laid before you, having in view the promotion of these objects, towards which I invite your aid and co-operation.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"It gives me pleasure to be enabled by the blessing of Providence to congratulate you on the generally improved condition of the country, and especially of the industrious classes. If you should be of opinion that recent legislation, in contributing, with other causes, to this happy result, has at the same time inflicted unavoidable injury on certain important interests, I recommend you dispassionately to consider how far it may be practicable equitably to mitigate that injury, and to enable the industry of the country to meet successfully that unrestricted competition to which parliament, in its wisdom, has decided that it should be subjected.

"I trust that the general improvement, notwithstanding many obstacles, has extended to Ireland; and while I rely with confidence on your aid, should it be required, to restrain that unhappy spirit of insubordination and turbulence which produces many, and aggravates all of the evils which afflict that portion of my dominions, I recommend to you the adoption of such a liberal and generous policy towards Ireland, as may encourage and assist her to rally from the depression in which she has been sunk by the sufferings of late years.

"Anxious to promote the efficiency of every branch of our National Church, I have thought fit to issue a commission to inquire and report to me how far, in their opinion, the Capitular Institutions of the country are capable of being made more effective for the great objects of religious worship, religious education, and ecclesiastical discipline.

"I have directed that the Reports of the Commissioners for inquiring into the system of education pursued at Oxford and Cambridge should be communicated to the governing bodies of those Universities for their consideration, and I rely upon your readiness to remove any legal difficulties which may impede the desire of the Universities at large, or of the several Colleges, to introduce such amendments into their existing system as they may deem to be more in accordance with the requirements of the present time.

"The system of Secondary Punishments has usefully occupied the labours of successive parliaments, and I shall rejoice if you shall find it possible to devise means by which, without giving encouragement to crime, transportation to Van Diemen's Land may at no distant period be altogether discontinued.

"The subject of Legal Reform continues to engage my anxious attention. The Acts passed in the last session of Parliament have been followed up by the orders necessary for putting them in operation; inquiries are in progress, by my direction, with a view of bringing into harmony the testamentary jurisdiction of my several courts; and bills will be submitted to you for effecting further improvements in the administration of the law.

"To these, and other measures affecting the social condition of the country, I am persuaded that you will give your earnest and zealous attention; and I pray that, by the blessing of Almighty God, your deliberations may be guided to the well-being and happiness of my people."

The Address was moved by Lord DONOUGHMORE, and seconded by the Marquis of BATH, who, of course, touched upon the various topics of the speech.—Lord BROTHAM bore testimony to the transcendent merits of the Duke of Wellington, which had secured for his memory an universal tribute of praise from all classes both at home and abroad. His public virtue and constant abnegation of self were even more admirable than

his private goodness and marvellous fortune. God forbid that the day should ever arrive when the nation should be more sensible of its irreparable loss than it was at the present moment. The most appropriate tribute to the great Duke would be to strengthen our defences at home, and to maintain our ancient alliances.—Lord DERBY, after paying his tribute of respect to the memory of the Duke of Wellington, proceeded to thank the Marquis of Lansdowne and Lord Brougham for the support which their remarks on the necessity of maintaining our defences would afford to the government, and to congratulate the house on the success which, up to the present time, had attended the enrolment of the militia. Passing to that part of her Majesty's speech which spoke of the "improved condition" of the working classes, he wished to state a few facts. From the increased consumption of certain articles, such as tea, tobacco, coffee, and sugar, it was evident that the circumstances of large classes of the community had improved considerably during the last three years. In the savings-banks of the agricultural districts, too, within the same period, the deposits had been increasing as compared with the sums withdrawn, until, in the present year, they had balanced one another, for the first time since 1847, when free-trade gave such a severe blow to industry in those districts. When he considered the circumstances which had combined to neutralise the injurious effect of the free-trade system, he concurred with those that attributed them to the great importation of gold and extensive emigration. But (continued Lord Derby) without looking to what may be the causes why the system newly introduced is working more advantageously for the working classes than we anticipated, I am bound to look to practical result, and to the deliberate expression of the feeling of the people. When, at the commencement of the last session of Parliament, I had for the first time the honour, very unexpectedly, of addressing your lordships from the place where I now stand, I stated that it would be my desire to conduct the business of the country through the session then commencing without any reference to those important questions on which differences of political principle existed; that that point must be a point referred to the deliberate consideration of the country, as tested by the result of a general election, and that by the result of that general election I and my colleagues were prepared to abide; and unless we had the full sanction and support of a large majority of the country, we would abstain from proposing even those measures we, in our private judgment, deemed right. That appeal has been made; and I have no hesitation in saying to your lordships that, with respect to the imposition of any duty on corn and provisions, not only is there not that large majority, without which I declared that I would not submit such a proposition to the consideration of parliament, but the country, by a very large and undoubted majority, including a very considerable proportion of representatives of the agricultural districts themselves, have declared that, whether it be desirable or not as a matter of policy, yet, in the present state of the country, they determined not to go back from that system of legislation which has been established; they will not consent to the imposition of any tax on the introduction of provisions. My lords, I say that that question carries with it the whole financial policy of the country. It might have been possible to adopt a system of free-trade, as it is commonly called, and to have made those particular articles exceptions from that general policy; but it is not possible to lay down a system of policy by which you should have free-trade in corn and provisions, and by which you should not follow up, as far as possible, the same principle with regard to other matters. If I understand that which is intended by the common expression, "free-trade," I take it to mean this: that you will not impose taxes for the purpose of protection of individual and local interests; that you will impose taxes for the purpose of revenue, and of revenue only, and that in the imposition of those taxes you will have especial references to lightening the burdens which may be imposed upon those articles that mainly enter into the consumption of the great mass of the community. Now, in that system I see much of advantage; I do not deny that I see much of difficulty and future embarrass-

ment. I see great present advantage: I am not sure—God forbid but I should be wrong—that that system may not lead to future embarrassment, by necessary consequent changes in our financial system. But I do not hesitate to say, after the opinion that has been pronounced by the country, whatever may be the views of myself or of my friends as to what would have been the desirable policy, that a recurrence to such a policy is in itself impracticable, and that if it were practicable it would be most undesirable to raise such a question of controversy among large masses of the people (hear, hear). On the part, then, of myself and of my colleagues, I bow to the decision of the country (hear), and having so bowed, I declare, on their part and on mine, that while desirous to the utmost of our power to mitigate that unavoidable injury which the adoption of the policy to which I refer has inflicted, and must inflict, upon important classes, *I do not adopt it with any reserve whatever, I adopt it frankly, as the decision of the country, and honestly and fairly I am prepared to carry it out as the decision of the country.* I hope the noble marquis will not think that her Majesty's government, after what I have said, either require time to make up their minds as to the course they shall pursue, or have any faltering or hesitation in declaring their intention. It would obviously be improper for me upon the present occasion to enter into any detail of those measures by which we believe that that injury may be mitigated, and by which we believe that without interfering with the general policy which is called for shortness "free-trade," we may confer advantages upon those classes which have suffered from its adoption. But I have the satisfaction of stating to your lordships that, if you and the country can have the patience to wait for one short fortnight, on the part of her Majesty's government, my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer is prepared to lay before the other house of parliament, in full detail, those financial measures which in the present state of affairs her Majesty's government are of opinion should be adopted. Until that period shall arrive, I trust your lordships will abstain from pronouncing or expressing any opinion.—After a few more observations, Lord Derby concluded as follows:—With regard to this question, I have frankly stated that we will endeavour as honestly to carry out the policy to which we have hitherto objected, as if we were ourselves the authors of that policy. On the other hand, I say as frankly and distinctly that I will abstain from no effort which, in my judgment and in that of my colleagues, may have the effect of mitigating—to those who suffer from it—the unavoidable effects of that policy which the nation has now adopted. (Several gentlemen in the reporters' gallery understood the noble earl to say "finally adopted;" but the closing words were not distinctly heard.)—After some observations from Lord STAFFORD, the address was agreed to.—On the motion of Lord DERBY, Lord Redesdale was re-appointed chairman of committees.

On Monday, the 15th, the Earl of DERBY moved an address to the Crown, in answer to the message respecting the *Funeral of the Duke of Wellington*; and subsequently moved that their lordships should attend the funeral, and that a committee be appointed to consider the manner in which such attendance should be given. Both motions were agreed to.

On Tuesday, the 16th, the LORD CHANCELLOR stated to the house the measures taken since the last session for the purpose of carrying into operation the bills for the *Amendment of Proceedings in the Court of Chancery*; and also announced the further measures contemplated by the government, and about to be laid before the other house, with the same object. The measures passed last session were now in full operation, and they had produced all the best effects contemplated by parliament, so that proceedings in chancery were now speedy in operation and cheap in expenditure. He then proceeded to describe, in detail, the measures intended to be introduced, and in the course of his observations he said that an extended investigation into the system of the ecclesiastical courts must take place at no distant time. Improvements would be made in the administration of the law with regard to lunacy, one of which would give the commissioners power to visit Bethlehem

Hospital. The law of bankruptcy would also be amended, but he did not propose to give the county-court judges any jurisdiction in cases of this description. It was also the intention of the government to proceed with the digest of the criminal law, the measures in relation to which would be founded upon the existing reports.—Lord BROUGHAM expressed his satisfaction at the announcements made by the Lord Chancellor; and presented himself a number of bills for the amendment of different branches of the law.

On Friday, the 19th, the Earl of ST. GERMANS inquired from the government whether there was any prospect of the minutes of proceedings of the International Sanitary Conference held in Paris in 1851, for the purpose of considering the *Quarantine Regulations of Europe*, being soon laid upon the table? He also wished to know upon whose advice the letter from the Privy Council to the Commissioners of Customs was written, which directed that all letters arriving from certain northern ports, or having recently suffered from cholera, should be placed in a state of precautionary quarantine; one passage in which he considered abandoned the only principle upon which the quarantine system could be maintained? The noble earl further inquired whether the La Plata had been released from quarantine, and if not, what measures had been taken for the reception and accommodation of the unfortunate persons on board the vessel?—The Earl of MALMESBURY replied to the first question, that he could not lay the papers upon the table because the negotiations were not yet concluded; but he had every reason to hope they would not terminate without ten or twelve countries signing the convention, if not all.—The Earl of LONSDALE, in reply to the second question, said that the letter in question had been written upon the advice of a skilful physician. With regard to the La Plata, a physician had been sent down to the port at which the vessel had arrived, from whence he would forward such recommendation as might seem desirable to him.

In reply to a question from Lord Redesdale, Lord COLCHESTER said the government had come to the determination of moving for a select committee to consider the subject of *Railway Regulation*.—The Earl of DERBY added that when railway companies came to parliament for new and amended bills to extend the powers they already possessed, the opportunity should be taken to introduce fresh regulations for the conveyance of mails and troops.

The Earl of DERBY, in moving the adjournment of the house, expressed his deep satisfaction and thankfulness at the result of the great solemnity of the Duke of Wellington's funeral. He warmly praised the organisation and arrangements of the whole ceremony; the temper and patience of the troops and the police; and, above all, the order and excellent conduct of the immense masses assembled on this occasion. "I know not, my lords," he said, "how you may have looked upon this manifestation of public feeling, and good sense and order, but I know this, that as I passed along those lines, it was with pride and satisfaction I felt that I was a countryman of those who knew so well how to regulate and control themselves; and I could not help entertaining a hope that those foreign visitors, who have done us and themselves the honour of assisting at this great ceremonial, might upon this occasion, as upon the 1st of May, 1851, bear witness back to their own country how safely, and to what extent, a people might be relied upon, in whom the strongest hold of their government was their own reverence and respect for the free institutions of the country, and the principles of popular self-government controlled and modified by constitutional monarchy. And who will forget the effect within the cathedral? When, amidst solemn and mournful music, slowly, and inch by inch, the coffin which held the illustrious dead descended into its last long resting-place, I was near enough to see the countenances of many of the veterans who were companions of his labours and of his triumphs, and was near enough to hear the suppressed sobs and see the hardly-checked tears, which would not have disgraced the cheeks of England's greatest warriors, as they looked down for the last time upon all that was mortal of our mighty hero. Honour, my lords, to the people

who so well know how to reverence the illustrious dead! Honour to the friendly visitors—especially to France, the great and friendly nation, that testified by the presence of their representative, their respect and veneration for his memory! They had regarded him as a foe worthy of their steel. His object was not fame nor glory, but a lasting peace. We have buried in our greatest hero the man among us who had the greatest horror of war. The great object of this country is to maintain peace. To do that, however, a nation must possess the means of self-defence. I trust that we shall bear this in mind, not in words only, but in our actions and policy, setting aside all political and party considerations, and that we shall concur in this opinion—that in order to be peaceful, England must be powerful; but that, if England ought to be powerful, she ought to be so only in order that she should be more secure of peace." These sentiments were received with loud cheers from every part of the house.

On Monday, the 22nd, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE desired to know the nature of the *Business proposed to be Transacted before the Christmas Recess*.—The Earl of DERBY replied that the object of the house in meeting before Christmas had been to consider the expediency of any alteration in our commercial system, and to close for ever the controversy with regard to protection and free-trade. The result of the late elections had convinced him that, though a large number of constituencies were well disposed to support the government, they were determined not to assent to an alteration in our recent commercial policy, and that any such attempt would instantly be negatived by a large majority. Under these circumstances, he had felt it his duty to advise her Majesty to declare that the principle of unrestricted competition ought to be adopted. After making this explicit statement, the government might have rested, but it went further and announced its budget for an early day, from the details of which the country would be enabled to judge of the sincerity of the government and the wisdom of its policy. An attempt had been made, indeed, in the Lower House to anticipate discussion by a resolution to which no member of the government could agree, but it would be well if those who were about to support that motion would consider not so much how to overthrow the government, but how they could form an administration if it were overthrown. Having said so much, he would now answer the noble lord's question, and state that it was not the intention of the government to propose any other important measures before Christmas.

The House of Commons assembled on Thursday, the 4th inst. Between two and three hundred members were present. Soon after two o'clock the house was summoned to attend the House of Lords to hear the reading of the royal commission opening the parliament.

On their return, Mr. R. PALMER, addressing the clerk, Sir Denis Le Marchant, proposed the *Re-election of Mr. Shaw Lefevre as Speaker*, in a short speech descriptive of the importance and responsibilities of the office.—Lord R. GROSVENOR seconded the motion, believing that the appointment of a fit and proper person for the office was doubly important at the present moment, when the liberties of Europe and the right of public opinion hung by a thread; and when, apart from these considerations, the nicely balanced state of parties in the house rendered the office one of unusual difficulty.—Sir R. H. INGLES supported the motion, and passed a high eulogium upon Mr. Lefevre for the moderation and ability with which he had discharged his duties during the thirteen thousand hours that he had occupied the chair.—Mr. SHAW LEFEVRE, before the question was put, expressed his sincere acknowledgments, and his belief that the faithful and impartial discharge of the duties which it was proposed to impose upon him would meet with the support and co-operation of the house.—The motion was carried with much cheering, in the midst of which the mover and seconder conducted Mr. Lefevre to his seat.—After a few words of acknowledgment from the newly-elected Speaker, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER congratulated the right hon. gentleman upon the reception of the highest honour which English gentlemen confer upon any one who possessed

their confidence and esteem, and the disposition of which he was assured would give equal satisfaction to every party.—Lord J. RUSSELL added his congratulations to those of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was doubly important at the present moment that the house, which contained so many inexperienced members, should be presided over by a gentleman who had shown such eminent qualifications for the duty; and that it should be thus enabled to continue to set an example to Europe of carrying on discussion with the utmost freedom, and at the same time with the utmost regard to order and propriety.—Mr. HUME, while congratulating the house upon the election which had been made, created some amusement by a characteristic suggestion, that for the future the full dress of the Speaker's levees should be dispensed with, as inconvenient and unnecessary.

On Friday the 5th, the Speaker on his return from the House of Lords, informed the Commons of what had taken place in the Lords' Chamber. He then intimated that the first business for the house was the taking the oaths prescribed for members. The swearing-in of members then commenced, and continued until the house adjourned. The first group included the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Dr. Layard. Mr. Macaulay was present during the earlier part of the sitting.

On Thursday the 11th the Speaker attended by a number of the members proceeded in the usual form to the House of Lords to hear the *Royal Speech*. After their return the house proceeded to business. The *Address* was moved by Lord LOVATNE, and seconded by Mr. E. C. EGERTON.—Mr. C. VILLIERS complained not of what was contained in the speech and address, but of their defects and omissions. The first minister of the crown had avowed in the last parliament that he held opinions at variance with those of a majority of the House of Commons, and, admitting the constitutional doctrine that this conflict of opinions should not exist, he had appealed to the country. What he (Mr. Villiers) complained of was, that the house was not informed whether the first minister had abandoned his opinions, and that it had no assurance that it was not intended in any way to alter or modify our late commercial policy. Upon this subject the speech was vague, and, he might almost say, deceptive; whereas the house was entitled to a distinct declaration, whether our future policy was to be that of protection, or that of free trade. The opposition would have the decision of the house on that matter, and he had only risen now for the purpose of stating that he for one, having taken a great interest in this subject, and believing that others who had taken a far more effective part would agree with him, was dissatisfied with the statement made as to the causes of the present condition of the country. They wanted to know distinctly what were the opinions of her Majesty's government on the great question which had been in dispute—the policy of protection or free trade; and without further detaining the house, he begged leave most distinctly to give notice that he should submit the matter to the house, that he should put the question on so clear and intelligible a footing that their fellow-countrymen out of the house would afterwards feel no doubt with regard to the future. He believed that the 22nd of the present month would be about the most convenient day for taking the opinion of the house on that subject.—Mr. HUME thought her Majesty was unfortunate in having a cabinet which had not formed an opinion on this important subject, or if they had, which shrank from confessing their error. A speedy decision of this question was indispensable. Mr. Hume mentioned several topics, the omission of which in the royal speech he lamented and censured.—Mr. WALPOLE said the house had met for a special purpose—namely, that the question of the financial and commercial policy of the country should be finally settled and decided. No deception had been intended in the speech from the throne, which was worded carefully in a way to avoid the necessity of discussing any amendment on the address. Ministers, were, however, prepared not only to avow their policy, but were ready with measures to carry it out, and they intended to take the first and earliest opportunity to submit these measures to the consideration of the house. As soon as the national tribute had been paid to the

late Duke of Wellington, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would lay before the house and the country the views which the government took of the financial and commercial policy which ought to be established and perpetuated. But he thought there was sufficient in the speech from the throne, and in the address in answer to that speech, for everybody to draw his inference that the ministers were not going to reverse the recent legislation which led to those improvements among the industrial classes of the community to which the Queen's speech referred. More than this then he thought the house would hardly expect him to say; for that would be to expect him to announce, in fact, the different measures which his right hon. friend would on different occasions propose, and the views which he would have to explain. He had, however, thought it right to make this declaration, because it was a declaration by which the government meant to abide, and those measures which the government thought it necessary to introduce would be brought forward at the earliest opportunity.—Lord J. RUSSELL participated in the disappointment of Mr. Villiers in respect to the evasive language of her Majesty's speech upon the subject of our commercial policy. It seemed to him that there were two plain courses open to Lord Derby—either to maintain the opinion he had constantly expressed from 1816 down to last February; or to say he had been mistaken, and manfully to declare his readiness to act upon a different policy for the future. Instead of adopting either of these courses, there was a continuance of the ambiguity and doubts which had subsisted for the last nine months. The country had been appealed to, and the intentions of the government should be announced in a clear and decided manner, and not enveloped in the mist in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, like the deities of old, loved to shroud himself. With the exception of this topic, there was nothing in the speech which called for more than slight remarks.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER denied that there was anything evasive in the paragraph excepted to, it had been framed in a manner to leave no mistake in an impartial mind. One doctrine had been laid down positively in the speech—namely, the principle of unrestricted competition. Alluding to an address by Lord John Russell (when a candidate for the City), in which he admitted that merchants and ship-owners had a right to complain of great burdens, he asked whether it were a protection move, to allude to sufferings which that noble lord had endorsed? It was the intention of government to take such claims into consideration, and he believed that they should be able to produce measures which would do all that could be asked in reason, without disturbing the principle of unrestricted competition which had been recognised in the speech. He referred to the emblazoned catalogue of feats achieved by the free-trade party, and reminded Lord J. Russell that the minister who had carried free-trade in corn was opposed to free-trade in sugar, and that the minister who had carried the latter had been averse to free-trade in ships. "But," continued he, "neither have I, nor have my colleagues, any intention to propose any policy which will give artificial prices, or attempt to give what the hon. gentleman on the other side has mentioned as compensation for the losses which have been occasioned by the changes in the legislation which has regulated the commercial interests of this country; but what we do say is—and I will state it as distinctly as I can succeed in expressing myself, with none of those cloudy words for which the noble lord has given me credit—that we think those commercial changes have been effected without at the same time a change, a corresponding change, in our financial system; and I say, notwithstanding what the noble lord has asserted, that it is our intention, believing that a proper revision of our taxation has not taken place, to put before this house a policy that will place our financial system more in harmony with our commercial system. And if the noble lord calls that protection, I think he will not succeed in establishing it when he favours the house with his opinion upon the proceedings of the government." Ministers had not mentioned the income tax, because they had made up their minds on the subject. They would take the earliest day for bringing

forward their measures, and he suggested to Mr. Villiers that the discussion he proposed should be blended with that on the government proposition, and he thought that the latter could be brought on about Friday, the 26th instant. No one was more anxious to meet this great controversy than himself.—Mr. GLADSTONE expressed his satisfaction at the exposition which the paragraph in the royal speech, on the subject of our commercial policy, had received, though the two defences of Mr. Walpole and Mr. Disraeli were inconsistent. The first was the best—namely, that the paragraph was left ambiguous because the moment was inconvenient for the conflict of principles. All he (Mr. Gladstone) wanted was a full, final, and solemn settlement of the question of free-trade; that the ministers should once for all declare their views upon this question, and that they had unequivocally and finally abandoned the idea of the possibility of a return to protection.—Mr. CHRISTOPHER, in reply to an observation of Mr. Gladstone, explained and defended the sentiments he had expressed out of doors, and professed his readiness, now the verdict of the country had been taken upon the question of protection, to bow to its decision.—Mr. OSBORNE thought that the country could only gather, from the insidious paragraph put into the royal speech, that the question of protection was to be re-opened. He complained likewise of the paragraph relating to Ireland.—Mr. ADLERLEY remonstrated against the premature attacks made upon the government. He had supported protection upon the principle that the land was unequally taxed and now that protection was withdrawn, the inequality, from which it had originated, should be adjusted.—Mr. CORDEN thought that no plain, fair-minded man could regard the clause of the Queen's speech as a sufficient solution of the question so long agitated. Supposing that the cabinet had resolved to adopt the principle of unrestricted competition, it must not be mixed with other questions; the pure principle of free-trade must be affirmed. Apart from the doctrine of unrestricted competition, there was a wide field open to a Chancellor of the Exchequer in dealing with taxation; but he could not be allowed to go into that question with the view of remedying the alleged injury done to certain interests. This would be to reopen the whole question of protection.—Lord PALMERSTON had derived great satisfaction from some parts of the Queen's speech, and with respect to the questions of protection or free-trade, he thought it necessary for the public interest that there should be some formal declaration on the part of the House of Commons of its permanent and decided concurrence in the sound policy of the commercial arrangements established by the legislation of late years.—After a few words from Colonel SMITHORP, who avowed himself as thoroughly protectionist as ever, and expressed his "disgust" at sentiments that he had heard in the house that night—sentiments that left him doubtful where he ought to seat himself; the usual formalities were gone through, and the motion agreed to without dissent.

On Friday the 12th inst. *Petitions* were presented complaining of the returns for the boroughs of *Great Yarmouth, Bridgenorth, and Tavistock*.

In reply to a question from Mr. Fitzroy, Mr. WALPOLE said that the report and the evidence taken by the commission of inquiry into outrages said to have been committed in *Bethlehem Hospital* would be laid upon the table of the house as soon as it should be returned by the governors of the hospital, to whom it had been submitted for their observations. In reply to another question, he said that it was the intention of the government to bring in a bill to put a stop to the nuisance of *Betting Offices* in the metropolis.

A message from her Majesty stated that she had given directions for the *Interment of the Duke of Wellington* in St. Paul's Cathedral, and relied upon her faithful Commons to provide means to make the necessary arrangements for conducting the funeral obsequies with befitting solemnity.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice that on Monday next he would move that her Majesty's message be taken into consideration.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice that he would make his *Statement relative to the Commercial and Financial Policy of the Government* on the 26th inst.,

but in the event of any unfairly hostile attempt being made against the government, he would reserve to himself the right of altering the present arrangement.

The *Report on the Address* was brought up and agreed to, after a few slight remarks from several members.

On Monday the 15th, Mr. J. A. SMITH asked the Secretary for the Home Department whether any communication had been made by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the government with reference to the present sitting of *Convocation*, and whether it was intended that it should continue to sit or be prorogued as usual?—Mr. WALPOLE said, that as far as he was aware, no communication such as the hon. member referred to had been made to any member of the government; certainly none such had been made to him. In answer to the other branch of the question—namely, whether the convocation was to be allowed to continue sitting or to be prorogued as usual, he begged to state that the usual course would be observed, and this was intended from the beginning.

A bill for making such commercial bills and notes as might fall due in the metropolis on Thursday (the day of the Duke of Wellington's funeral) payable on the day before, was read three times and passed.

On the motion for considering the *Queen's Message relating to the late Duke of Wellington*, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving an address in reply to the Crown, referred to the leading characteristics and exploits of the departed hero. After reviewing the Duke's military achievements, Mr. Disraeli proceeded to say, that his Grace's civil career had scarcely been less splendid than his military history. "He had been three times ambassador to congresses, twice secretary of state, twice commander-in-chief, and once prime minister, and to the last hour of his life was engaged in the service of his country. It was also matter of pride with that house to remember, that in his time the Duke had been one of themselves. There was, however, one consolation for the loss of the hero, in the fact that there had been so general and intimate an acquaintance with him, that he was everywhere honoured in social life, and that wherever he went the people followed him with a glance of reverent admiration. To complete all," he continued, "that we might have a perfect idea of this sovereign master of duty in all his manifold offices, he himself gave us a collection of administrative and military literature which no age and no country can rival; and, fortunate in all things, Wellesley found in his lifetime an historian whose immortal page already ranks with the classics of that land which Wellesley saved. The Duke of Wellington left to his countrymen a great legacy—greater even than his glory. He left them the contemplation of his character. I will not say his conduct revived the sense of duty in England. I would not say that of our country. But that his conduct inspired public life with a purer and more masculine tone, I cannot doubt. His career rebukes restless vanity, and reprimands the irregular ebullitions of a morbid egotism. I doubt not that among all orders of Englishmen, from those with the highest responsibilities of our society to those who perform the humblest duties, I dare say there is not a man who, in his toil and his perplexity has not sometimes thought of the Duke, and lived in his example support and solace. Though he lived so much in the hearts and minds of his countrymen—though he occupied such eminent posts, and fulfilled such august duties—it was not till he died that we felt what a space he filled in the feelings and thoughts of the people of England. Never was the influence of real greatness more completely asserted than on his decease. In an age whose boast of intellectual equality flatters all our self-complacencies, the world suddenly acknowledged that it had lost the greatest of men; in an age of utility, the most industrious and common-sense people in the world could find no vent for their woe, and no representative for their sorrow, but the solemnity of a pageant; and we—we who have met here for such different purposes—to investigate the sources of the wealth of nations, to enter into statistical research, and to encounter each other in fiscal controversy—we present to the world the most sublime and touching spectacle that human circumstances can well produce—the spectacle of a senate mourning a hero!" Lord J. RUSSELL seconded the motion. He did not wish to add a single

word to the eloquent terms in which the right hon. gentleman had made his motion, as he was sure the whole house would concur in the assurance he proposed to convey to the Throne.—The motion was then agreed to.

Mr. BROTHERTON made his annual motion, that the house should take *No Business after Midnight*. It was supported by Mr. Ewart and Mr. W. Williams; opposed by Mr. Disraeli and Lord J. Russell; and negatived on a division by 260 to 64.

On Tuesday the 16th, Lord STANLEY stated, in answer to Mr. Hume, that after a protracted correspondence on the *Case of Mr. Newton*, who, in June last was arrested in Vienna, and treated with indignity, the Austrian Government had apologised.

On the motion that the house resolve itself into a committee of supply, Lord D. STUART complained that no estimate of the *Expense of the Duke of Wellington's Funeral* had been laid before the house, and that all the cost of the pageant should have been incurred by the prerogative.—Mr. S. CARTER condemned the expenditure of any money whatever upon a pageantry which could benefit neither the dead nor the living.

On Wednesday the 17th, Mr. WILSON, on the part of Mr. Villiers, gave notice, for Tuesday next, of his motion respecting the beneficial results of the repeal of the corn-laws.

On Friday the 19th, Mr. HUME moved for a *Call of the House* for the day before that of Mr. Villiers's motion, considering that a question of so much importance could not be finally settled unless there was a due attendance of the representatives of the nation. On a division, the motion was carried by 147 against 142.

On Monday, the 22nd, in reply to a question put by Mr. M. MILNES respecting the *Seizure of the Private Papers of Mr. Paget*, at Dresden, by the Austrian police acting in Saxony, Lord STANLEY said it was true that Mr. Paget, who had been resident for two years at Dresden, had had his house entered and his papers seized by the police; but it was not true that the seizure had been made by the Austrian police, but by the police of the country in which he resided. The result of the remonstrance made to the Saxon government was that Mr. Paget's papers had been restored, and the police who had entered his house had received a severe reprimand.

In answer to a series of questions by Sir B. HALL, Mr. WALPOLE stated that the government were of opinion that there ought to be an effectual *Reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts*, but that no bill should be introduced for that object until the whole question, now under investigation, had been fully considered; that the Crown had no power to prevent what Sir Benjamin had termed "Romish" proceedings in the church, the best mode of checking which would be found in the good sense of the people of this country; and, lastly, that he did not see that the government ought to interfere with the life-incomes of any of the bishops.

Mr. NAPIER moved for leave to bring in bills to *Facilitate the Improvement of Landed Property in Ireland*. After noticing the difficulties which beset the framing of a code of laws to regulate the relations between landlord and tenant in Ireland, he observed that the present circumstances of that country, while they rendered the adjustment of the land question indispensable, offered facilities for its accomplishment. He gave a sketch of the agricultural history of Ireland, of the policy which England and the imperial legislature had pursued with reference to the Irish land question, and of the various parliamentary investigations which that question had undergone. He then developed the objects he had in view to remedy the agricultural evils of Ireland, in the bills he proposed to introduce. The first was to enable owners themselves to carry out fully improvements of the soil, by drainage &c. The second was to facilitate the making of beneficial leases and contracts, and agreements for compensation for improvements of lands, which would promote concord and harmony between landlord and tenant, by showing that they had a common interest, while the tenant would enjoy full legal protection, and the landlord's just rights would be secured. A third bill would simplify, consolidate, and amend the existing laws which regulate the relation of landlord and tenant, founding that relation upon the

principle of contract, and providing facilities for effecting such contracts, along with remedies more prompt and effectual than those now existing for violation of contracts, withholding of rent, burning of lands, and other wrongs, simplifying, at the same time, the law of ejectment. The last bill would provide compensation to tenants for improvement of their holdings, a large portion of the land in Ireland being held by tenants from year to year. It was not intended to interfere in any way with the tenant-right of Ulster. It was proposed to enable the tenant to offer to undertake improvements, unless the landlord chose to avail himself of the means of effecting them, which would be placed in his power; and retrospective improvements, made by the tenant before the passing the law, would be provided for by a compensation for their unexhausted value, without resorting to schemes that would lead to the compulsory adjustment of rent. Mr. NAPIER explained at much length and with great particularity the nature of those several measures, conceived, he said, in a liberal and generous spirit, with due regard to the rights of property, and the provisions by which he proposed to carry them into execution, and expressed his hope that, by this code, he might be able to give freer scope to the industry of Ireland, and work out its great resources.—After several remarks, generally approving of the proposed measures, leave was given to bring in the four bills.

On Tuesday the 23rd, Mr. VILLIERS moved his Resolutions in favour of *Free Trade*. They were as follows:—

"That it is the opinion of this house that the improved condition of the country, and particularly of the industrious classes, is mainly the result of recent commercial legislation, and especially of the act of 1846, which established the free admission of foreign corn, and that that act was a wise, just, and beneficial measure.

"That it is the opinion of this house that the maintenance and further extension of the policy of free-trade, as opposed to that of protection, will best enable the property and industry of the nation to bear the burdens to which they are exposed, and will most contribute to the general prosperity, welfare, and contentment of the people.

"That this house is ready to take into its consideration any measures consistent with the principles of these resolutions which may be laid before it by her Majesty's ministers."

Mr. Villiers explained in the outset the circumstances under which he had considered it necessary to bring forward a motion which should set the question of Free-trade finally at rest. He alluded particularly to the paragraph in the Queen's speech, with which he believed everybody was dissatisfied. He had been asked to postpone his resolutions to make way for the plans of the government; but with those plans he considered he had nothing to do, the house having been summoned to decide on this most important of subjects, and the government having previously agreed to be tried by the country on that very point. The government had been tried and found wanting; and it was now time that the house should declare itself finally upon the question. He had been told that the government would resign should the motion be carried. The country might survive such a calamity, but such was not his intention in taking the present step. He was surprised to hear that that step was considered by the government as factious; but he did not know why he was implicitly to trust that government, and believe in its reputation for consistency? He taunted the government with a disposition to remain in office at all hazards, and at the sacrifice of every principle. With regard to the first minister of the crown, he (Mr. Villiers) had a right to suppose—from his speeches and arguments—that his opinions remained unchanged; and under these circumstances it was not unreasonable of the country to insist upon having its own opinions represented in the house. With regard to the question itself, he would not enter into statistics, because he hoped they were all agreed upon it. The right hon. gentleman himself, who had given notice of the amendment, acknowledged the general prosperity of the working classes, and admitted

that it must be ascribed to free-trade. But he did not understand why the right hon. gentleman confined himself to the working classes, and did not admit that producers and consumers, and every class, were alike benefited. It was for that reason that he proposed that the right hon. gentleman should accept the principle and doctrine that the property and industry of the country would be better able to bear their respective burthens under the principles of free-trade than under that of protection. He denied that any class required compensation, for all classes were flourishing. In conclusion, Mr. Villiers expressed his hope that every information would be given from the other side towards the solution of the great question—whether or not the abolition of protection had caused the present prosperity of the country?—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the following amendment:—"That this house acknowledges, with satisfaction, that the cheapness of provisions, occasioned by recent legislation, has mainly contributed to improve the condition and increase the comforts of the working classes; and that unrestricted competition having been adopted, after due deliberation, as the principle of our commercial system, this house is of opinion that it is the duty of the government unreservedly to adhere to that policy in those measures of financial and administrative reform which, under the circumstances of the country, they may deem it their duty to introduce." He began by saying that the real question before them was not one of protection or free-trade, but one of confidence in ministers. If, as Mr. Villiers said, such enormous injury had been done to the country by the Protectionists, it was the duty of the house to say so, and deny them their confidence. But, on reviewing their conduct since the repeal of the corn law in 1846, he maintained that it would be found that those same Protectionists had never once attempted to obtain the abrogation of that law. As it was with corn, so it was with the sugar duties and the navigation laws. The party with which he acted had opposed the repeal of all those laws; and when they lost the fight, they had demanded inquiry into the working and effects of the changes which had taken place. In this respect they could not be said to have done so much mischief as the Whigs themselves in their conduct with regard to the sugar duties. The Protectionist party had but one object in the course they took—the welfare of the labouring classes; and it was because they believed that these classes generally, and one interest in particular, would suffer from these changes, that they opposed them. Mr. Disraeli proceeded to trace the course of political events up to the year 1851, when Lord Derby, under the altered circumstances of the country, was for a countervailing duty simply, and did not attempt to reverse the commercial policy of the country. The only measures which the Protectionists proposed were of a remedial character. They came into office without any party feeling; and, without changing their course at all, resolved that the great question of protection or free-trade should be settled, as they had previously foreseen it must be, by the country. The premier's programme was one of compromise and conciliation. But before parliament could be dissolved it was necessary to pass some important and necessary measures—measures that met with every impediment that party feeling could suggest from the other side of the house. The principal result, however, had been the triumphant success of a highly valuable measure for the defence of the country. Reverting to the relative amount of mischief done to the commercial interests of the country by the Protectionist and Free-trade parties, Mr. Disraeli next alluded to the conduct of a third party—the party originated by Sir Robert Peel—taunting them generally, but with especial reference to Mr. Gladstone, with inconstancy and inconsistency on various important questions—particularly agricultural and colonial distress and the navigation laws. The party in question had approved of the course of the Protectionists on all these questions; and if one had done mischief, the other must surely share in the responsibility. He reminded Lord John Russell of his own share in the same responsibility, his lordship having, with regard to the same three questions, admitted that injury had been inflicted on particular interests. The Protectionists

in their later proceedings, therefore, had met with the approbation of all parties in the house. Mr. Disraeli next came to the conduct of the Protectionists towards the interests that they professed to represent. After commenting upon the altered circumstances which found him and his friends in office, he was not ashamed to own that they found themselves, by the general verdict of the country, beaten and discomfited, and had accordingly taken the only course which lay open to them. The manner in which this conduct was received by the other side of the house was neither liberal nor graceful; and as for the present motion, he would not call it "bullying," because that was not a parliamentary term, but it was certainly impolitic and unwise. The government would not interfere with what, in the language of the platform, was called free-trade—with unrestricted competition. He considered the motion of Mr. Villiers a vexatious proceeding. If to that resolution he had moved the previous question, he believed he would have received the support of the house. But this course he had not taken, because he was resolved that the present question should be tried; and because he and his colleagues would never retain power upon sufferance. He appealed to his friends in the house for support, and especially to those new and younger members whom he warned not to become the tools or victims of exhausted factions and obsolete politics.—Mr. BRIGHT supported the original resolutions. After alluding to the significant circumstance that Mr. Disraeli had described himself and his party throughout his speech as "Protectionists," reminded the right hon. member of various occasions on which his friends—if not himself—had brought forward motions directly against the present commercial system of the country. Mr. Disraeli's argument was mainly one of recrimination; he had sought simply to show that others were as bad as himself. The government now chose to call themselves Free-traders; but he reminded them that it was upon principles of protection—as far as the counties were concerned—that they gained their places in the house. Referring to the free-trade opinions now held by the government, he read (amidst the laughter and cheers of the house) a long list of protectionist professions made by several of those gentlemen to their constituents at the last election, as well as similar professions from a large number of their supporters. After taunting Mr. Disraeli with not having contributed a single feather's weight towards the present prosperity of the country, while men whom he had reviled had spent the whole of their political lives towards that end, Mr. Bright concluded by expressing his sincere hope that the important question before them would that night be settled for ever.—Mr. KER SEYMER supported the amendment; and Mr. F. PEEL supported Mr. Villiers' resolutions.—Lord PALMERSTON concurred in the substance of Mr. Villiers' resolutions. At the same time he could not forget that there was a large party in the house who had surrendered their own convictions for the good of the country; and it appeared to him that it would be ungenerous on the part of a majority to endeavour to compel unwilling persons to subscribe to opinions which they did not share. He, therefore, suggested a middle course, and proposed the adoption of a resolution which, while it fully recognised the doctrine of free-trade and the permanent establishment of that doctrine, was not liable to the objection of requiring those who might agree to so much, to recant opinions which they might formerly have honestly entertained. The debate was then adjourned.

The adjourned debate was resumed on Thursday the 25th; but a desultory discussion took place before it commenced. Sir W. CLAY desired to know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be willing to withdraw his amendment, and Mr. Villiers his motion, upon the understanding that the house would acquiesce in the proposition of Lord Palmerston? Sir James GRAHAM interposed, and, as a point of order, to give an opportunity for discussion, moved the adjournment of the house. He congratulated them upon the circumstance that Mr. Villiers had brought forward a motion upon so important and deeply interesting a subject; and stated that he himself had drawn the original draft of the

motion, which had been placed before the house by Lord Palmerston; but that noble lord had omitted an important sentence, which barred any claim to compensation. Mr. GLADSTONE recommended, as the best means of reconciling all parties, the adoption of certain modifications of the original motion, as contained in the amendment of Lord Palmerston. He did not think it necessary that the question of compensation should be settled in a motion directed simply to the purpose of establishing the policy of free-trade.—Mr. T. DUNCOMBE thought it a very pretty quarrel as it stood. He ridiculed the notion of modifying the original motion, and recommended that the house should adjourn to enable the hon. gentlemen to settle their differences.—Lord PALMERSTON said that he had been indebted to Sir James Graham for a considerable portion of his amendment, the policy of which he now defended, as calculated to reconcile all parties.—Sir E. B. LYTON thought it very important that they should adopt that form of words that would best satisfy the house and the people out of doors. The various motions before them had all some recommendations of their own; but under present circumstances it was inexpedient to hesitate about mere verbal phrases. They should lay aside their party feelings for the sake of a great principle, and it seemed to him that the great principle under consideration was most likely to meet the general approbation of the house under the form of Lord Palmerston's amendment.—The Marquis of GRANBY could neither agree to the motion nor to any of the amendments. The present prosperity of the country was not owing to recent legislation, but to other causes; or if recent legislation had anything to do with it, that prosperity could not last. He was not going to oppose himself to the general verdict of the country against protection, but his opinions on the subject remained unchanged.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made some observations with regard to imputations cast upon him by several of the preceding speakers. He had done everything in his power on behalf of the land of England, which he believed to have been unjustly treated by recent legislation; at the same time that he must confess that that legislation had, as far as cheapening provisions was concerned, contributed to the welfare of the working classes. The right hon. gentleman who appeared—and indeed described himself to be—labouring under some indisposition, defended the terms of her Majesty's speech, which had been complained of in that and the preceding debate, and justified the conduct of the ministry generally. With regard to the motion and amendments before the house, he refused to give up the question of "compensation," but between the proposition of the government and that of Lord Palmerston he saw no real difference whatever.—Lord J. RUSSELL, while fully and entirely concurring in the original motion, suggested that from the various amendments before the house, a motion might be drawn up calculated to reconcile all parties.—Mr. CORDEY ridiculed the idea of compensating any particular interest. If that principle was entertained the whole battle must be fought over again, as the government would find it just as easy to cheat the people through the medium of a tax-gatherer as by a corn law.—After an indignant speech from Mr. NEWDEGATE, and an explanation from Mr. Gladstone, —Mr. VILLIERS rose on the general call of the house and delivered an effective speech, the effect of which was that he rejected any modification of his motion, and pressed for a division.—After a few words from Mr. BARROW and Mr. STANHOPE, Sir J. GRAHAM withdrew his motion for adjournment.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he should not be able to bring forward his financial statement on the day he had intended for that purpose (the 26th).

The adjourned debate on *Mr. Villiers' Resolution* was then resumed. When the order of the day had been read, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that after the resolution proposed by Lord Palmerston, and the opinions expressed in favour of it, it would simplify the course of the debate if he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) withdrew his amendment. The amendment having been accordingly withdrawn, Lord

PALMERSTON then formally moved his amendment, which was as follows: "That it is the opinion of this house, that the improved condition of the country, and especially of the industrious classes, is mainly the result of recent legislation, which has established the principle of unrestricted competition, has abolished taxes imposed for the purposes of protection, and has thereby diminished the cost and increased the abundance of the principal articles of the food of the people. That it is the opinion of this house, that this policy, firmly maintained and prudently extended, will best enable the industry of the country to bear its burthens, and will thereby most surely promote the welfare and contentment of the people. That this house will be ready to take into consideration any measures consistent with these principles which, in pursuance of her Majesty's gracious speech and recommendation, may be laid before it."—Mr. BOOKER delivered an address in favour of protection, and against both the motion and the remaining (Lord Palmerston's) amendment.—Mr. B. OSBORNE complained in indignant terms of the course taken by Lord Palmerston and his supporters in breaking up the unanimity on that side of the house. Passing from that subject to the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the opening night of the debate, the assertions contained in which he denounced and denied, the hon. gentleman observed (amidst roars of laughter from the house, who evidently misinterpreted his meaning), that Mr. Disraeli seemed to have taken a leaf from a great French writer—he did not allude to M. Thiers, but to the revolutionary leader, Danton, who laid down the principle that audacity was the secret of success. The hon. gentleman then proceeded, with a continual accompaniment of laughter and cheers, to deal out a succession of hard hits against various members of the government and their supporters, by quoting (Mr. Disraeli, he said, had set the example of quoting) from their protectionist speeches and proceedings ever since 1846, which he contrasted with the declaration of the heads of the government that they had never attempted to reverse the system of free trade. He ridiculed the notion that any forbearance, or what was called "gentlemanlike consideration," should be exercised in favour of a party that had stigmatised Sir Robert Peel as the "arch-enemy of the human race," and had behaved throughout with uniform equivocation and duplicity. The sudden conversion of the ministers was at any rate suspicious, and he asked the house if they believed it to be sincere. Mr. Disraeli was "a great state conjuror," unequalled since the days of the celebrated Ramo Samee—an Indian gentleman who only swallowed swords, while the Chancellor of the Exchequer had swallowed as many as three amendments in one night. He warned the house not to place confidence in "a gang of political latitudinarians," who had no belief, "except in the existence of the Treasury benches," and "the perpetuity of place."—Mr. BALL followed in a protectionist oration, in which he defended the farmers as an intellectual class of men, condemned the cheapness of commodities as the sign of approaching ruin, and objected generally to the present prosperity of the country.—Mr. PHILLIMORE supported Mr. Villiers' motion, and Mr. BENTINCK supported the government.—Sir W. PAGE WOOD considered that under present circumstances the house would stultify itself, and act an inconsistent part, by adopting any other resolution than that of Mr. Villiers. They would be denying that the legislation, which had done so much for the country, was either "wise, just," or "beneficial," for those were the three words upon which they seemed to hang.—After some observations from Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, the debate was adjourned.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—Nov. 11. Parliament opened by Her Majesty. —Address agreed to.
15th.—Duke of Wellington's Funeral Committee appointed.
16th.—Statement by Lord St. Leonard's as to *Recessus* in Chancery-Bills, Bills of Exchange, Bill (on account of the suspension of business on the 18th) received from the Commons, carried through, and passed.
House of Commons.—Nov. 11th. Address in answer to Her Majesty's Speech agreed to.

15th. Bills of Exchange Bill read three times and passed.—Mr. Brotherton's motion against Late Hours negatively by 200 to 64.—East India Company Committee obtained by Mr. Herberts.
16th.—Mr. W. Patten appointed Chairman of Committee of Supply.—Committee obtained by Mr. Baines on Juvenile and Destitute Criminals.

19th.—Derby Election, petition not received, being informal. Bill brought in by Mr. Whitehead for Law Reform in Ireland. Mr. Hume's motion for a Call of the House carried by 147 to 142.

22nd.—Bank Notes' Bill read a second time.—Mr. Hume's motion for Call of the House withdrawn.—Bills brought in by Mr. Napier to Amend the Law of Landlord and Tenant in Ireland.

23rd.—Mr. Villiers' Resolutions on Free Trade, Debate begun and adjourned.

24th.—County Elections' Polls' Bill read a second time.

25.—Debate on Mr. Villiers' Resolutions continued and again adjourned.

A large public meeting of members of the Church of England, held at Plymouth, having presented a memorial to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Prynne, in *Establishing a Confessional in his Church* in that town, the Primate has made the following reply, dated the 29th ult. :—

"Sir,—I have the honour of acknowledging a memorial which you have addressed to me, as agreed upon at a public meeting of clergy and lay members of the Church of England, assembled at Stonehouse on the 12th inst. The memorial alludes to the introduction of doctrines and practices into the Church during the last few years which cannot be reconciled with the principles of the Reformation. This is a subject upon which, unhappily, I have been so often obliged to declare my opinion, that I need not repeat it now. The memorial, however, proceeds to complain of a practice, originating in these erroneous doctrines, which can scarcely be distinguished from the auricular confession of the Church of Rome. I agree with the memorialists in believing this practice equally misrepresents in principle and mischievous in effect. But I trust that public opinion is so uniform in condemning and repudiating it, that the continuance of such a system, either at Plymouth or elsewhere, will be more effectually prevented than it would be by the voice of authority or by legal enactments; both which, we know by experience, it is commonly too easy to evade.—I remain, &c., J. B. CANTUAR."

Mr. Macaulay Addressed his Constituents at Edinburgh, on the 2nd inst., for the first time since his election, the state of his health having prevented him from sooner paying them a visit. The meeting took place in the Music Hall, which was crowded to excess. Mr. Macaulay was received with immense applause. Mr. Adam Black took the chair, and most of the principal Edinburgh liberals were present. Mr. Macaulay addressed the meeting at great length, in a speech of extraordinary power and brilliancy, touching on the principal political topics of the day, and commenting on some of the recent ministerial blunders, particularly Mr. Walpole's proposition to bestow the elective franchise on every man who served in the militia, which he placed in a most ridiculous light. At length he was compelled by physical exhaustion to bring his address to a close. It concluded amid cordial cheering; and the meeting separated after giving three additional cheers for the "History of England."

A great Free Trade Meeting took place at Manchester, on the evening of the 2nd inst. Its object was to afford an opportunity to the advocates of unrestricted commercial intercourse, on the eve of the meeting of parliament, of declaring their firm adherence to those principles of free trade which were adopted by parliament in 1846. It was held in the Free Trade Hall, and upwards of 3000 persons were present. Mr. Wilson, the president of the old Anti Corn-Law League, was in the chair. About sixty distinguished members of parliament were present; and about the same number, who had accepted the invitation, sent apologies for absence. Among the vice-presidents were delegates from thirty-five towns; and the assemblage fully represented the commercial and manufacturing industry of the north of England, and of Scotland and Ireland. The principal speaker was Mr. Cobden, whose health was given as the representative of the largest constituency in the kingdom. Able speeches were also made by Mr. Bright, Mr. Keogh, Mr. H. Berkeley, Mr. Milner Gibson, Lord Goderich, and Mr. Cheetham.

At a meeting of the Clergy of London, held in Sion College, on the 8th inst., it was resolved, on the motion of Dr. M'Caul, "That a report having been widely circulated that a majority of the clergy of the Church of England and Ireland are desirous that the *Convocation now Assembled should Proceed to Business*, the President and Fellows of Sion College beg to be permitted to state that they do not participate in that feeling, nor believe that under present circumstances such a course would be expedient." An amendment to adjourn proceedings *sine die*, moved by the Rev. Mr. Scott, was defeated.

A large meeting, summoned by the Committee of the Protestant Defence Association, was held on the 10th, at Freemasons' Hall, to protest against the practice of *Auricular Confession*, and against the *Recital of Convocation* in the Church of England. The Earl of Shaftesbury was in the chair. Resolutions to the above purport were adopted.

The *Society of the Friends of Italy* had a Conversation on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst., at the Music Hall, Store-street, which was crowded by an audience composed of English, Italians, Germans, and Hungarians. M. Kossuth was vehemently cheered as he took his place on the platform. The chair was taken by Mr. P. A. Taylor, and on either hand were M. Mazzini and Kossuth. M. Mazzini delivered an eloquent address, with the view of getting up a petition on behalf of oppressed Italy, to be presented to parliament. M. Kossuth, after taking the hand of M. Mazzini, whom he addressed as "friend and brother," to show not only his personal sympathy for the illustrious Italian, but to demonstrate the identity of the cause of Hungary with that of Italy, proceeded as follows:—"As to the rest, obedient to your call I have risen, but only for the purpose of apologising for not making a speech. There is a time and a season for everything in the world. There is a time and a season to speak, and there is a time and a season to be silent. You English are happy. Your may hope to carry all that you require by the peaceful means of the free word. For us we can carry nothing with words. And therefore I have taken—in consequence of my duty I have taken—the rule, that for the future I have only a single speech, which is reserved for the due time, and depend upon it, to be spoken in due time; and that only speech that I have in future is, 'Up, boys, and at them—follow me.' This unexpected communication was received with perceptible astonishment, but the concluding phrase of the sentence produced overwhelming applause. "Until," added M. Kossuth, "I have an occasion to deliver that speech I will have none else. So am I done with oratory."

The two Houses of Convocation met on the 10th inst.; and on the 17th Convocation was prorogued by the Archbishop of Canterbury to Wednesday the 16th of February. During the sittings, various discussions took place on the question of the renewal of Synodical action, but they led to no result. The Bishop of Oxford entered a protest, in which he was joined by the Bishops of Salisbury, Chichester, and St. David's against the prorogation, on the ground that the archbishop had no right to adjourn the Synod *sine consensu fratrum*.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech on the 15th, on the funeral of the Duke of Wellington, contains a passage which the *Globe* has pointed out to be a plagiarism from a panegyric pronounced by M. Thiers on Marshal De St. Cyr. The following parallel passages are given :—

"It is not that a great general must be an engineer—a geographer—learned in human nature—adroit in the management of men—that he must be able to fulfil the highest duty of a Minister of State, and then to descend to the humblest office of a commissary and a clerk; but he has to display all this knowledge and to exercise all those duties at the same time, and under extraordinary circumstances. At every moment he has to think of the eve

An engineer, a geographer, a man of the world, a metaphysician, knowing men, knowing how to govern them, an administrator in great things, a clerk in small—all these things it is necessary to be, but these are as yet nothing. All this vast knowledge must be exercised on the instant, in the midst of extraordinary circumstances. At every moment you must think of the yesterday and the morrow; of your flank and of your rear. Calculate at the

and of the morrow—of his flank and of his rear—he has to calculate at the same time the state of the weather and the moral qualities of men; and all those elements that are perpetually changing he has to combine, sometimes under overwhelming heat, sometimes under overpowering cold—often times in famine, and frequently amidst the roar of artillery. Behind all these circumstances there is ever present the image of his country, and the dreadful alternative whether that country is to welcome him with laurel or with cypress. Yet those images he must dismiss from his mind, for the general must not only think, but think with the rapidity of lightning; for on a moment more or less depends the fate of the most beautiful combination—and a moment more or less is a question of glory or of shame. Unquestionably, sir, all this may be done in an ordinary manner, by an ordinary man, as every day of our lives we see that ordinary men may be successful Ministers of State, successful authors, and successful speakers—but to do all this with genius is sublime. To be able to think with vigour, with depth, and with clearness in the recesses of the Cabinet, is a great intellectual demonstration; but to think with equal vigour, clearness, and depth amidst the noise of bullets, appears to me the loftiest exercise and the most complete triumph of human faculties.”—MR. DISRAELI ON THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 1852.

same time on the atmosphere and on the temper of your men; and all these elements, so various and so diverse, which are ceaselessly changing and renewed, you must combine in the midst of cold, heat, hunger, bullets.

Farther off, and behind them, is the spectacle of your country, with laurel or with cypress. But all these images and ideas must be banished and set aside, for you must think, and think quickly—one minute too much, and the fairest combination has lost its opportunity, and instead of glory, it is shame which awaits you. All this undoubtedly is compatible with mediocrity, like every other profession; one can also be a middling poet, a middling orator, a middling author; but this done with genius is sublime.

To think in the quiet of one's cabinet, clearly, strongly, nobly, this undoubtedly is great; but to think as clearly, as strongly, as nobly, in the midst of carnage and fire, is the most perfect exercise of the human faculties.”—M. THIERS ON THE MARSHAL GOUVION DE ST. CYR, 1829, quoted in the ‘Morning Chronicle’ of July 1, 1848.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

THE *Sittings in Chancery* commenced on the 2nd ult., at Westminster Hall. When the business of the day before the Lord Chancellor was finished, Mr. Malins, at the request of the bar, asked his lordship whether he would permit the sittings of the two first terms of the year to be held at Lincoln's Inn. The Lord Chancellor replied, that he held it impolitic to separate the two branches of the profession. His habits led him to look with veneration on the Hall at Westminster; the Lords Justices thought with him, that the sittings had better be held at Westminster; and he believed that on this subject the bar was much divided. Some expressions of dissent took place; and Mr. Malins said that there were few questions on which the bar was so unanimous. Mr. Campbell, Mr. Roundell Palmer, and others, supported Mr. Malins; and at length, apparently out of consideration for the convenience of solicitors, the Lord Chancellor agreed to adjourn the sittings to Lincoln's Inn for the present term.

George Anderson, well known as a clown at the theatres, committed *Suicide*, on the 31st ult., by throwing himself from a second-floor window in Fetter-lane. So determined was he upon self-destruction, that, previous to his leaping from the window, he called to a woman that was underneath to move away as speedily as possible; he then fell headforemost upon the pavement. Upon being taken up, it was found that he had sustained a considerable fracture of the skull, and other extensive injuries, and he died almost immediately. The poor man had for a long time been afflicted with consumption, and was much embarrassed.

A case, exhibiting the effects of frequenting *Betting-Offices*, occurred at the Middlesex Quarter Sessions on the 1st inst. Maurice Barnett, a respectable-looking lad, sixteen years of age, was indicted for having stolen 6*l.* 10*s.*, belonging to Henry Appleyard, his master. He pleaded guilty. His counsel stated that he was in

the employ of the prosecutor, a news-agent in Duke-street, Adelphi, as errand boy. He was sent out with a cheque for 10*l.*, out of which he was to pay away 3*l.* 10*s.* He did so, and afterwards was induced to go to a betting-office, where, after some hesitation, he backed a horse for 3*s.*, taking that sum out of his master's money. He lost; and then he made another bet for 2*s.*, to pay back, if successful, the money he had helped himself to. He lost again; and, being afraid to return to his master, he resolved to leave the country, and went to Liverpool, and engaged a passage to New Orleans, for which he paid 3*l.* 10*s.* He was on board the vessel four days, when, from remorse, he came ashore and gave himself up to the police for stealing his master's money. By means of the electric telegraph the Liverpool police ascertained that his story was true, and he was brought in custody to London. From Liverpool he wrote a letter to his parents, which he, the learned counsel, would hand up to the Court for perusal, in the hope that his lordship might be induced to treat the case leniently. The prosecutor would recommend the prisoner to mercy, and was kind enough to say that he would again take him into his service. After commenting on the nature of the case, the Assistant Judge sentenced the prisoner to be kept in solitary confinement for ten days, at the expiration of which he would be given up to his master.

A disgraceful scene of *Wrecking* has occurred at Shields. The Marie Elizabeth, of Christiana, went ashore, and soon began to break up; while the brave pilots were risking their lives to save the crew, a lawless mob revelled in drunkenness—knocking in the heads of casks of wine and spirits that came to land, and drinking the liquor out of boots, sou'-westers, &c., and also plundering the bales and boxes washed up by the sea. Some of the wretches were carried away in carts to the workhouse, insensible; while others were arrested by the police, and have since been committed to prison.

The premises of Messrs. Whittaker and Co., the booksellers in Ave Maria Lane, were *Robbed* on Sunday, the 7th inst. During the Sunday there is no person in the range of four houses constituting the establishment, the porter or watchman being allowed to go home on the Saturday night, and taking the keys with him. This man, John Cooper, gave an alarm on Sunday evening that the place had been robbed: he said he discovered an outer door open as he was passing to go to church. On inspection it was seen that the robbers had broken open all desks and other places where money was likely to be deposited; a large amount in coin and small notes was carried off, and also the contents of a plate-chest, valued at 200*l.* Saturday was “magazine-day,” and a large sum was received by the firm at too late an hour to pay it into the bank: the surmise immediately arose that the thieves knew this. Cooper pointed out to the police a window with weak fastenings, where the robbers had probably entered: the fastenings certainly were weak, but there was no appearance of weakness on the outside to attract a burglar's notice. The result of the inquiries by the firm and the officers was the arrest of Cooper. He was brought before Alderman Carden, at the Guildhall Police Office. Mr. Hood, a partner in the firm of Whittaker and Co., stated that Cooper had been in their service fourteen years, and had hitherto been highly esteemed for honesty. In examining the premises, Mr. Hood made an important discovery. He found that, before any attempt was made upon the iron safe, his own private door had been forced open and the key of the safe taken from a concealed drawer, of which not more than two or three persons in the establishment could have been aware; the key was replaced after the safe had been opened. From these facts he was induced to suspect some one in his employ. Two gentlemen, named Hughes, who live next door to Whittakers', stated that they saw Cooper leave the premises about eleven o'clock on Sunday morning. Cooper had stated to the police that he had not been there between nine o'clock on Saturday night and six o'clock on Sunday evening. No trace of the property was found on the prisoner or at his lodgings. He was remanded.

A dreadful case of *Destitution* was disclosed at the Thames Police Court, on the 8th inst. A young man

named Frederick Crowe, was charged with stealing a truck: he had pretended to hire the truck, and then tried to sell it for 2s. He did not deny the act, but pleaded that distress drove him to it,—he wanted to get food for his sick mother, his sister, his wife and child, and himself, who were starving. When two policemen went to arrest him, they were horrified at the condition in which they found the family; they humanely purchased food and fuel for them, and induced the neighbours to subscribe for their relief. Crowe told the magistrate that he was a bird-cage maker, but he could get no work at that nor anything else, except making canvass jackets, for which he and his family received a miserable payment. The magistrate hesitated how to act, but at length discharged the prisoner, observing that the owner of the truck, no doubt, had no desire to consign the miserable man to a prison. The magistrate then directed the chief usher to inquire into the condition of the family. That officer gave this report:—

“No. 1, Union Place, Stepney Green:—I found Alice Cracknell, who says she is forty-seven years of age, dressed in a petticoat; the upper part of her body covered with canvass coats, which she was making. Her mind seemed much affected, and she appeared to be nearly starved to death. Her arms are like those of a child three years of age. Eliza Cracknell, the daughter of the above, dressed the same as the mother; a fine girl, aged sixteen years, suffering from illness and want of food. Harriet Crowe and child; the mother only eighteen years old, had nothing but an old frock on, the only frock in the house. She also appeared to be suffering from her close confinement in a small and badly-ventilated room, and the want of food. In the room there was part of a bench, which is used as a table during the day, and a bed for the man Crowe at night. The three women and the man make jackets; and by working hard all day, and until two o'clock in the morning, and all day of Sunday, they can earn 7s. per week. They all said they did not tasted food since Friday morning, until the time that Police-Sergeant Smith went and gave them a few pence out of his own pocket, and a neighbour has given them some old clothes to cover the child. They pay 2s. 6d. per week for the two rooms, about five feet wide and ten feet long each; one room has nothing in it at all. The man says he could make a living if he could get a set of tools, which would cost about 2l. 10s. He could make cages and sell about the streets. The family have been relieved by the parish with one loaf and a pound of oatmeal. Found lying in one corner of the room the remains of a mattress or blanket, which was the only thing in the room except an old box used to sit upon.”

The magistrate directed that a pound should be appropriated from the poor-box for the relief of the family.

A daring *Garotte Robbery* was committed in the Strand, on Saturday night, the 13th inst. As Mr. Chalmers, of Cambridge-street, Golden-square, was passing through Agar-street, Strand, he was attacked by a man of herculean frame, who, seizing him by the neck, cut the guard-chain of his watch, and, throwing him violently from him, decamped with his booty towards Covent-garden Market. Several persons, who witnessed the struggles of Mr. Chalmers, gathered round; and, as soon as he recovered himself sufficiently to explain that he had been robbed, went in pursuit. The robber, however, who was joined by another in the market, got clear away with his booty.

An important decision on the subject of *Railway Cabs*, was given on the 15th by Mr. A. Beckett, the Southwark Police Magistrate. Hall, a cab-driver, was summoned for plying for hire in an unlicensed place—to wit, within the terminus of the Brighton Railway at London Bridge. There was no denial that the place had not been appointed a standing by the Commissioners of Police. Mr. A. Beckett remarked at the outset, that the Railway Company had taken advantage of the delay he had granted to obtain the opinions of the Solicitor-General and Mr. Eovill, which were adverse to the judgment he was about to give; but, of course, a magistrate must decide for himself, and could not be led by such “opinions.” In the present case, he pointed out how he thought the learned gentlemen had made a great mistake in the application of a particular decision respecting hackney-carriages. Mr. A. Beckett pronounced that Hall, acting under the company’s sanction, had clearly violated the law. It was urged that railway companies made these illegal regulations to promote the convenience of the public; but he held that it was not at all desirable that a certain number of privileged

vehicles should thus be withdrawn from the control of the Police Commissioners, as the railway companies were under no responsibility to the public with respect to these cabs. Some of the regulations were misleading to the public; railway numbers were placed on cabs different from the legal numbers, and this had frequently led to the summoning of innocent drivers, while the guilty escaped; the aggrieved passengers having mistaken the railway for the police number. Mr. A. Beckett had communicated with Sir Richard Mayne, who expressed his willingness to appoint a stand within the terminus, and even to adopt any regulations suggested by the company that appeared useful; but instead of taking advantage of this opportunity, the company had used the time in the endeavour to find means of evading the law. He inflicted on Hall the nominal fine of one shilling. Morrish, another driver, was convicted of refusing to take a fare within the terminus. He said it was not his “turn,” and that he should be fined five shillings by the company if he broke their regulations. A gentleman from the railway announced that this regulation had been abrogated since the last decision on the point. Mr. A. Beckett fined the driver forty shillings.

At the Middlesex Sessions, on the 15th, John Morris, aged fourteen, pleaded guilty to *Stealing a Till* containing 2s. 5d. The lad was old in crime: he had been summarily convicted eleven times. Mr. Sergeant Adams said, in this case he had not the power to transport the culprit. The prisoner—“I want to be transported.” The Assistant-Judge—“I dare say you do; but I am sorry to say you cannot be gratified at present.” Prisoner—“Oh, very well; I shall go on the same game again when I’m out, till I do get transported, though.” The Assistant-Judge—“Well, I promise you that the next time you come here you shall be transported, if guilty. Now, mind that.” He then sentenced the prisoner to nine months’ hard labour.

The capital sentence passed on *Cannon, the Sweep*, for attempting to murder Policeman Dwyer, has been commuted to transportation for life.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on the 20th, *Jonathan Streeter*, corn-merchant, of Brighton, applied for his certificate. It appeared that he had been in business for twenty-eight years; that he had been in a partnership in a corn-mill; and that it was in respect of a liability incurred on account of that partnership, and which he would not pay to the detriment of his other creditors, that he had preferred to become a bankrupt. It was also shown that his books had been regularly kept, and that his whole conduct had been blameless. Mr. Commissioner Goulburn said that the bankrupt was clearly entitled to quit the court without imputation of any kind whatever on his character, and it was the duty as well as the pleasure of the court to award him a first-class certificate. Much had recently been said by commercial men about the wisdom or otherwise of the legislature in directing the classification of certificates into first, second, and third; and it had been the practice of the bankruptcy courts to watch very closely the distinction given by a first-class certificate, in order that its worth might not be destroyed by being made too common. The effect of a first-class certificate was to state to the world that from unforeseen misfortune only, such as might happen to the most honest man in trade, the bankrupt had been compelled to come into that court, and have his affairs wound up, and his assets equally distributed. Such a man was entitled to quit that court with the commendation of the court, the good-will of all his creditors, and their best wishes for his future success, as Mr. Streeter was sure to do.

In the Insolvent Debtor’s Court on the 20th, a *New and Important Question*, under the Protection Act, was discussed. The insolvent, James Fry, who was a miller at Sunbury, was heard in April last, under the Protection Act, and no day was named for the final order, on the ground of fraud. Permission was given to apply in three months for a protecting order. In the interval he was arrested by Mr. Impey, and committed to Maidstone Gaol. He subsequently applied to the court for a protecting order, and for his discharge from prison, both of which were granted. The opposing creditor finding him, to his surprise, out of prison, discovered that he had obtained the protecting order and discharge without

giving him notice. An application was made to the court to rescind the protecting order and to re-commit the insolvent to Maidstone Gaol on the ground that it had been improperly obtained. The question was now argued at some length, and the learned commissioners having conferred together expressed their opinion.—The Chief Commissioner held that the court had power to rescind the protecting order, but doubted whether it could re-commit to prison.—Mr. Commissioner Law said he had no doubt of the power of the court both to revoke the order and to re-commit the insolvent to Maidstone. He was, however, not disposed to adopt the latter unless it was shown that the insolvent had wilfully acted in the matter.—Mr. Commissioner Phillips was clearly of opinion that the court could both revoke and commit.—A question arose as to the proceedings to be adopted in the case, and it was ultimately decided that the rule should remain open, and the insolvent appear for examination on the 6th of December.

An action was tried in the Court of Common Pleas on the 20th, on a bill of exchange for 245*l.*, accepted by Lieutenant Ronalds of the 77th Foot. The defendant pleaded that the bill was given for money won at Play, and without value. The circumstances of this gaming transaction, as stated by the defendant's own counsel, were these. Last year his regiment was stationed at Plymouth. On the 20th August, Plymouth races were run, and about that time there appeared in the town a number of persons assuming to themselves the name of "The Bath and Bristol Club." They started a roulette table, but as it required some precaution to evade proceedings by the magistrates, this club never carried on play two nights in succession in the same house, so as to prevent their being caught whilst they were at work. On the second or third night, they opened a room at a livery stable-keeper's, named Hlex, and it was the misfortune of his client and some brother officers to go there on that occasion. It was after mess that he went, and he was sober; but, as usual, there was every attention paid to gentlemen who wanted to use the roulette table, and champagne was thrown about for their use. The consequence was that Lieut. Ronalds became elated, and having lost the 15*l.* which he had in his pocket, he played on credit until he lost about 500*l.*; and an IOU for 50*l.*, and the bill in question, were given on account of part of this sum. This IOU was afterwards handed over to another officer who had won; but he, however, went the next night and lost it back again. When the bill became due a letter was written applying for payment, on behalf of the "Town and District Banking Company;" and an intimation was given that if it was not paid, the case would be laid before the Commander-in-Chief. The communication was not answered, and another was sent enclosing a copy of a letter which had been sent to the Commander-in-Chief, and subsequently the action was brought. Mr. Ronalds is about five or six-and-twenty. He was to have been in court to be examined; but he failed to appear; and the court, after waiting for some time, gave judgment against him for the amount of the bill, with costs.

In the case of libel, *Dr. Achilli against Dr. Newman*, the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 22nd, granted a rule for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict, formerly given for the plaintiff, was against evidence.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 23rd, application was made on the part of Sir Charles Napier for *Criminal Information* against Mr. John Murray, the publisher of the "Quarterly Review," in respect of an article in the October number of that journal, alleged to reflect unjustly on Sir C. Napier's character, in reference to the investigation made by him into the matter of the Amers of Scinde, and to the conduct of his troops towards the women of the Amers on taking possession of Hyderabad. Lord Campbell was of opinion that there was not a case for the interference of the court. If (said his lordship) there had been any passage written with the intention of calumniating Sir Charles Napier, their lordships would undoubtedly have extended to him the protection of the court. But he could find nothing showing such an intention. The article seemed to him to be an historical essay, turning on a disputed point as to whether the Amers of Scinde were harshly treated or not. On that point, of

course, the court could say nothing. It would be, in fact, encroaching on the liberty of the press if their lordships said a criminal information should issue under these circumstances. Whatever might be the case elsewhere, we in England possessed a free press, which he trusted would ever continue to discuss every question of history, as well modern as ancient, without apprehending applications like that before the court. It was true that in times when the law of libel was yet unsettled, or settled at best in a vexatious and tyrannical manner, it was a libel to accuse any officer of the crown of incompetency; but that doctrine was long since exploded, and now there was no impropriety in questioning the capability of any public functionary to discharge his duty. As to Sir Charles Napier personally, he (Lord Campbell) believed him to be one of the most gallant, meritorious, and distinguished officers that had ever led an army to victory; but believing all that, and looking to him as one whose assistance might be calculated upon by his country, in the hour of need, his lordship thought this application was not well founded, and that the rule must be refused. The other judges concurred, and the rule was refused accordingly.

William Baker, a boy of eleven, was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on the 23rd, for the *Manslaughter* of his brother, a lad of thirteen. This lad had been eating his dinner, and had just finished when the prisoner came in, and he was about to sit down to the table to eat his dinner, and took up a knife and fork, when his brother scolded him for coming home so late, and also said that he should not have the knife and fork. The prisoner said he should come home when he pleased, and he should have what knife and fork he liked. He then sat down to his dinner, when the brother took up the lid of a saucepan and struck him on the back with it, and then went to the other end of the room. The prisoner at the same instant threw a knife at him, and it entered his left side and stuck there. The brother pulled the knife out of his body and gave it to the prisoner, and he laid it on the table and exclaimed that he did not mean to do it. The wounded lad ran into the room of a lodger, and was conveyed to the hospital; but the hurt was mortal, and he died two days afterwards. The judge told the jury that if they thought that the prisoner in a moment of passion had thrown the knife at hazard and with no deliberate intention whatever, they would be justified in acquitting him; and even if they had any doubt upon the point, the prisoner was equally entitled to the benefit of that doubt. The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of *Not guilty*. The boy was discharged and delivered to the care of his father.

A singular case of *Bigamy* was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on the 24th. The prisoner was a respectable-looking elderly woman, named Smith. She was married in October, 1816, at Tonbridge, to one John Smith, with whom she lived some ten or eleven years. They then separated, from some cause that was not stated. After that period it appeared that she had amassed some property, consisting of two small houses and some money, and was again married in January, 1841, at Newington, to a man about her own age, named Joseph Hensman, stating herself to be a widow. She placed the whole of her property at his disposal, and acted the part of a good wife to him, and had worked at her business as a wire-worker. Two years after the second marriage the second husband heard that she had a husband living, and taxed her with it, but this she denied, and they went down together to Maidstone, and the first husband was introduced to the second one as the brother of the first one, and it was not until a few weeks ago that the second husband did find out the truth. When the police-constable told her with what she was charged, she said that she had not been guilty of any offence as her first husband was married again. This was not proved, but it was shown that he had from the period of their separation lived with a woman, calling her his wife. The jury found her *GUILTY*, recommending her to mercy, and the Recorder, ordered her to be imprisoned for one month in Newgate.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 24th, judgment was given on the application of M. Barthelmei and M. Morney, the gentlemen in custody for being

implicated in the late *Fatal Duel* at Windsor, to be admitted to bail. It will be remembered that they had been committed to prison on the coroner's inquisition, and also by the magistrates, upon the charge of murder, committed in the late fatal duel near Egham. Lord Campbell delivered the judgement. Having carefully looked at the depositions taken before the magistrates and the coroner, the Court were of opinion that they would not be justified in yielding to the application. It appeared there was an inquisition finding the parties guilty of wilful murder. On looking at the depositions, it appeared that the death took place in a duel, and the Court were of opinion that there was evidence to support the finding of the coroner's jury. The Court would not say that the evidence was conclusive; on the contrary, as they said in the previous case, "God grant them a good deliverance." The parties were in the situation of persons against whom a grand jury had found a verdict of wilful murder. It was unnecessary to consider what course the Court would pursue if there had been no evidence, for in this case there was evidence, and the Court could not say that the grand jury was wrong. It would therefore be contrary to all the principles upon which the Court had uniformly acted if it were to grant the *habeas corpus*. There was no distinction between the case where murder took place in a duel or in any other transaction, and it would be inexpedient that there should be. Time was when public opinion was contrary to the law of the land, but it had now taken a turn, and was in accordance with it, and he trusted that the time would soon arrive when duelling would be considered not only illegal but absurd. There was in this decision no clashing with the decision which had been come to by the Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin, who had refused to interfere with the inquisition taken upon the Sixmile-bridge case, upon the ground that it was contrary to the weight of the evidence. If there had been evidence to show a want of jurisdiction, the case might have been different; but here, as there was jurisdiction, and there was evidence to go to the jury, the Court could not interfere. The application was refused.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

A poor old widow, named Withers, was accidentally killed on the 29th ult, on the Reading and Basingstoke branch line of the Great Western Railway. The old woman, who was very deaf and partially blind, lived close by the line, over which there is a crossway. She got on the line with the intention of going to her daughter's who lived near, and while crossing it, the train from Reading was passing on the down line, and, coming up at the moment, struck her. About half an hour afterwards, the wife of a labourer, perceiving something lying on the line, went up to it, and was horror-stricken at beholding the old woman quite dead, her brains being scattered about, her legs both broken, and her body mutilated. On being struck on the head by the engine, she must have been carried some little distance, as the body was found more than a dozen yards' distant from the crossing. She had repeatedly been warned of her danger in going across the railway without an attendant, which caution appears to have been but little heeded by her. Formerly, however, gates were placed on either side of this crossway, and a policeman was stationed at the spot on the approach of the trains; but both had been removed—it is said on the score of economy.

A *Railway Accident* has occurred from running an express train into a goods train. The express train from Brighton to London, on the morning of the 1st inst., as it approached the Redhill goods station, near the Reigate junction, ran into part of a goods train which was in the very process of being shunted from a siding on to the up-line—that is on to the line upon which it must have been known the express train was approaching. The shock was great, though the speed of the express had been slackened, as the train stops at Reigate junction. Some trucks were destroyed, and both engines were damaged. There were twelve or

fourteen passenger-carriages, full of people, and very few escaped unhurt. Many were cut and bruised, and a lady had her leg broken. Fortunately, two medical men were in the train; they were slightly hurt themselves, but they immediately rendered assistance to their fellow-sufferers. Other surgeons having arrived from Reigate, splints and bandages were applied to the lady's leg, and she was conveyed back to Brighton without being removed from the carriage. The Earl of Chichester and Lord Foley were in the train; the former was wounded on the head. The driver of the goods train, the guard, and the pointsman, (Lambe, Clarke, and Brewer,) were taken into custody. Next day they were charged before the Reigate magistrates with endangering the lives of passengers by their neglect. The evidence showed that the collision was produced by their acting contrary to the rules laid down for them. If either of the main lines at Redhill are obstructed, prominent danger-signals are ordered to be exhibited; and these can be seen by approaching trains at a great distance. The driver, guard, and pointsman, ought to have taken care that the up line was not in any way obstructed at a time when an express train was due; and if any unavoidable occupation of the rails had occurred, the danger-signals should have been exhibited. Three minutes before the collision, the station-master saw that the line was clear, and that the signals denoted it, and he then went into the station; directly after, the engine and some trucks were moved out of a siding on to the up-line; all the prisoners should have looked to the signal, and seeing it denoted a clear line, they knew that *that* was a prohibition against encumbering the up-rails. The prisoners attempted to justify themselves by alleging that there was an insufficiency of hands at the station. The magistrates appeared to think that this allegation was not without foundation; but this did not affect the question as to the negligence of the accused, and they convicted all three, inflicting on each the highest punishment in their power—two months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

A similar *Accident* occurred on the Midland Railway, at the King's Norton station; and Thomas Clark, the station-master, was charged before the magistrates with having caused the accident by neglect. He allowed a goods train to remain on the line when an express train was due, and used defective signal-lamps: the express train ran into the other, and there were disastrous consequences, though no loss of life. It appeared that Clark had altered the burners of the lamps, so that they gave hardly any light; and the driver of the express could not see them in time. But it also appeared that the goods train was despatched from Birmingham two hours after its time, with a passenger train to follow in half an hour; to allow this to pass, Clark put the goods train on the other line, but forgot to apprise the people in charge of it that the express was due. The magistrates said, there was no excuse for the defendant neglecting the signal-lamps; but in consideration of the undue responsibility thrown upon him by the company, by despatching the goods train from Birmingham two hours after its customary time, and which was the main cause of the accident, they should mitigate the penalty below the sum to which he would otherwise be liable. They fined him 50s.

Three men were killed on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, near Sheffield, by a fall of earth, on Friday, the 5th instant. A large engine-shed was to be constructed on the side of the railway, at the foot of an embankment. A deep excavation had been made beneath the embankment for the foundation of the walls; the soil was very loose, and the sides of the trench were supported by timber and planks. A piece of timber slipped from the workmen's hands, struck a support, and caused some of the planks to give way. Fresh supports were introduced, but these proved insufficient; and while four men were in the trench, about four in the afternoon, the earth began to fall in. One man escaped, but the others were overwhelmed by an immense mass of soil and timber.

Mr. Hammett, wine-merchant in Liverpool, an infirm old gentleman, and his niece were killed at the Seaforth station on the Liverpool and Southport Railway on the 7th inst. At the inquest on their bodies, a passenger

described the accident:—"When the train arrived at Seaforth, a gentleman and lady were upon the platform. As the train was about to move, the gentleman opened the door of the carriage in which I was seated, and appeared as if about to get in, but the lady urged him not to do so. He seemed undecided what to do, and replied 'No, no!' but continued to walk down the platform, holding by the handle of the carriage-door. He then let go, and I shut the door. On looking out of the window, I perceived the gentleman lay hold of the handle of a door lower down the train, and by a sudden jerk of the carriage he was thrown down sideways. The lady had hold of his coat, and they were both gradually pulled in between the carriages and the platform. In this way they were drawn along with the train for about ten seconds, the wheels pulling them gradually in. I shouted out, and the train was ultimately stopped, and in about five minutes the bodies were extricated; life was found to be extinct. In my opinion, the gentleman had sufficient time to get into the carriage, had he not been so nervous and undecided." A verdict of *Accidental death* was returned, coupled with the following presentment:—"The jury cannot separate without remonstrating with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company against the removal from duty on Sundays, from roadside stations, of the porters generally employed when extra traffic generally occurs."

The Melbourne, screw-steamer, belonging to the Australian Mail Packet Company, after a *Series of Disasters* in the Channel, at Plymouth, and in the open sea, put into Lisbon on the 24th of last month, dismasted and in a leaky state.

The Fire-Annihilator works in Battersea Fields were *Destroyed by Fire* on Sunday the 31st ult., with loss of life. The building, a detached one, belonged to a company which manufactures Phillips's fire-annihilators; the composition employed was made there and baked in ovens, and then deposited in the machines. On Sundays, a watchman named Garrard had charge of the premises and fires, and his wife was in the habit of coming to him in the morning and cooking their dinner in the factory. In the morning her husband left her in the house while he went into a field to gather herbs; when he returned a few minutes afterwards, he found the place in flames. He shouted to his wife, but obtained no answer. The people who were proceeding to a church in the neighbourhood did what they could to assist Garrard, and engines were quickly obtained from town; but the fire burnt so fiercely that the premises were soon gutted, the chemical agents employed in the manufacture feeding the flames. As soon as the firemen could enter the building they searched for Mrs. Garrard's body: it was found in a cupboard, with some portions consumed. The disaster is supposed to have originated from an over-heated flue; the poor woman had either been in the cupboard when the flames broke forth and overpowered her, or she had run there thinking it a refuge. An inquest was held on the following day. The evidence was not decisive as to the cause of the fire, but the jury coupled with their verdict of *Accidental death* an opinion that "the fire occurred from the ignition of wood in the oven or drying-room, by reason of a too near approximation thereof to the flues."

A shock of *Earthquake*, which appears to have commenced on the shores of Dublin and Wicklow, and taking nearly a circular direction, extended in England as far as Gloucester, occurred on the 9th inst. about half past four in the morning. The disturbances, upon a comparison of time, were as nearly as possible simultaneous; at least there is no appreciable difference in the times they are reported to have been perceived in different places. The course taken was across the Irish Channel—where, however, the passengers in the ordinary packets, running between Kingstown and Liverpool and Kingstown and Holyhead, did not perceive any indications of the phenomenon—along the coast of North Wales, through the principal districts of South Lancashire, and along the edges of Cheshire and Shropshire into Gloucestershire. The weather for several days previously had been wet and sultry, with a warm and unseasonable atmosphere. No actual damage was done anywhere, though the motion was considerable.

In consequence of the continuous rain, the metropolis

and various parts of the country have been subjected to severe *Inundations*. On the 12th an unusually high tide swept both banks of the Thames, as far as Putney; doing considerable damage. As usual the Surrey side suffered the most. Some of the lower streets were four feet under water; the inhabitants escaping in wagons and boats. At Lambeth, the gardens of the palace were flooded, and a boat was carried into the burial-ground of Lambeth Old Church. Fore-street, High-street, and Lambeth Butts, were several feet under water. The Lammas lands as far as Putney were all under water. The towing-path on the Surrey side of the Thames was covered with water to the depth of six feet. At Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, and all along, the river-side as far as Bankside was covered some feet deep; and it required the most prompt measures to prevent the tide from rushing into the furnaces of the various gas-works, iron-foundries, and breweries. Great devastation has taken place in Herefordshire. The Wye, the Lagg, and the Frome overflowed. The London mail-coach was swallowed up in the wreck of a bridge over the Frome; one passenger and one horse were drowned; boats saved the rest of the passengers. The mail-bags were partially rescued. Hereford was then surrounded by water. The property destroyed on the river-banks is considerable. Floods are also reported at Market Harborough and Leicester, and at Newton Abbots in Devon; at the former places, the Soar expanded into a lake; at the latter, the Teign burst its banks, and carried off much property. Birmingham was visited with a disastrous flood on the night of the 11th. The river Rea, which is fed by the water flowing from the Licky Hills, in consequence of the continued and heavy rains, rose many feet above its usual level. The streets, houses, and manufactories, were flooded, and great damage was done, while communication on foot was stopped. One house was partly washed down. The carcasses of animals that were borne on the stream showed that the agricultural districts of Worcestershire had suffered from the flood. Traffic was stopped on the Bristol and Birmingham Railway. Loss of life has taken place in several parts of the country. A melancholy case occurred at Walton-upon-Thames, a village near Chertsey, upon the South Western Railway. On Saturday evening, the 20th, about five o'clock, Sarah, the wife of James Lilley, together with her son, a boy about twelve years old, and her daughter, aged fourteen, together with their father, had been employed on App's Court farm, in the occupation of Mr. William Careless, and were returning home from their work at the above hour to their cottage which is at present, in consequence of the floods, completely surrounded by water. The farm of Mr. Careless is surrounded by a deep moat, which separates the cottage of the deceased and another from the farm where they had been at work, and their ordinary mode of getting to this cottage was by means of a path running along the side of the moat, and then over a high embankment at the end of it. This embankment was three feet under water, and therefore to get to their cottage they had recourse to a beer-cooler, about seven feet long, four feet wide, and only seven inches in depth, for the purpose of being punted across the moat, which was thirty yards wide. On the above evening, Mrs. Lilley, with her son and daughter, attempting to cross in this way, without waiting for her husband's assistance, when they fell into the water, and all the three perished.

Information has been received from Gottenburg of the total *Wreck of the Victoria Steam-ship*, from Hull for St. Petersburg, by which five of the crew and three passengers lost their lives. She sailed from Hull on the 24th ult., but encountered a terrific gale, with a heavy sea, in the Sleeve, on the 28th, by which, among other damage sustained, she had her wheel and paddleboxes broken, and two cases of machinery which were on deck washed overboard. She consequently put back to Hull, where she arrived on the 1st inst., and from the advanced state of the season it was not anticipated that she would sail during the winter; however, having repaired damages, she left Hull for her original destination on Saturday, the 6th inst., and encountered another fearful gale on the 8th and 9th inst., during which she was totally lost on the rocks off Wingo Beacon, near Gottenburg. Three passengers and five of the crew

were drowned, and three female passengers, with twenty of the crew and male passengers, succeeded with great difficulty in getting on the rocks, where they were exposed to the inclemency of the weather for nearly twenty hours, when, providentially, they were observed by some Swedish fishermen, who humanely bore down to their assistance, and at great peril rescued them from their dangerous position, and conveyed them to Gothenburg. The vessel went to pieces soon after she struck, and but a very small portion of the cargo, in a very damaged state, has been saved. A young lady who was a passenger has given, in a letter to her friends at home, a striking account of this catastrophe:—"On Saturday (6th inst.), we embarked in the *Victoria*. Everybody in Hull seemed so sanguine of our having a fair voyage, and dwelt so impressively on the hardships of the overland journey, that I felt not the slightest hesitation in going again on board. We embarked about half past 12 o'clock, the wind in our favour, and everything going on well. In addition to our old party we had two new faces, Mr. H— and his young brother, lads of 22 and 14, and a mate that knew every inch of ground. All went on gaily, and we separated about 10 o'clock on Monday night, all in good spirits, congratulating each other on having had so fair a voyage, and thinking about our next day's expedition into Copenhagen. We were scarcely undressed, and in our berths, before a terrible bumping and thumping ensued, and a cry was raised, 'The ship has struck.' For a few moments everybody seemed paralysed, and all was confusion. During this time, notwithstanding the commands of the captain to keep collected, a rush was made for the boats, and five of the seamen, with Mr. H— and the brothers H— were drowned. As for myself, I determined from the first to abide by what the captain said and be guided entirely by him. I implored Mr. H— to do so likewise; he promised that he would, but, poor man! the moment he saw the seas washing over the deck, and heard the fearful commotion, he lost his self-possession, and was one of the first to jump into the boat. He was soon in the water, and, as he had on a life preserver, his cries for help were heard for half an hour. Oh! those were cries we shall remember all our lives; the thought of them makes one shudder—so despairing, so entreating! The youngest H— I pulled back twice when he was preparing to leap from the ship, and entreated him to pray for himself and for us. He fell on his knees, and screamed, 'Lord have mercy on us—Lord save us,' but hearing his brother and Mr. H— call, he rushed away, threw himself into the boat, and in a few moments was in the presence of God. Poor souls! would they were but with us now. Shortly after this a cry was raised that the captain was overboard, but in a few minutes he was seen again on deck, miraculously preserved. All this time the ship was bumping and thumping and going to pieces, but nothing could be done; it was much too dark to take to the boats, and each moment we feared would be our last. All the blue lights we had were burnt, and turpentine signals, but all of no use. About three, the cook fancied he saw a signal, and for a few moments our hearts were raised, but soon they sank as we discovered only the moon rising above the rocks. Nothing could be done. There we were, only a short distance from land, but death staring us in the face, our ship reeling each moment, and heavy seas washing over us. Such a scene as the saloon presented may I never see again. The sailors were doing all they could to cheer one another, and the captain and chief mate were encouraging each other, and all of us praying as we never prayed before. Our only hope was for the daylight, and it seemed as if this would never come. But the longest night must have an end, and about a quarter to 7 it was light enough to get the boats ready (we had but one beside the life boat, which got stove). In a few minutes this was done, and the women passengers were got into the bottom of the boat with five men. We made our way to some rocks, and in about half an hour were placed in comparative safety upon the most barren rock you can imagine. The boat then went back again to the ship to fetch off the seven men, but it was so knocked about as to be unequal to this performance, and the captain, engineer, and five men, had to remain yet longer

on board. By this time the Swedish fishing-boats were out, and several of them made repeated attempts to reach the wreck, without success, the breakers were so high and so rough. By this time there was not a vestige of the ship to be seen, only the boilers, in which the poor men were huddled; and, as we could not see them we supposed that they were all gone. We all gave way to despondency, and the sailors cried like children. 'Oh, the poor master, he is gone at last,' was all they could say, but their tears spoke more than words could do. Presently we saw something buffeting about in the waves, and very soon discovered it to be the captain. A shout was raised—'Bless God, here's the master,' and all were in readiness to pick him up. The pilot-boat from one of the islands now came to our relief, and soon we were all taken off the rocks in safety. After about an hour's sail we found ourselves on another island, less desolate than the first, a few rough houses forming a kind of village. We were led about a mile over rocky paths, and at last installed in a decent cabin. The poor people did all they could to make us comfortable, stripping themselves to make us warm. In about another hour the remainder of the poor seamen were brought in, and if you could have seen us you would have known the meaning of the word 'joy.' I confess I never did before. The poor captain, who was terribly bruised and ill, we got into the only bed there was, and rubbed him with brandy, and did all we could to make him well. After eating a hearty supper of corned beef and potatoes, with coffee, we prepared for the night's rest. What a picture we should have made. The captain in a little bed on one side of the room; the engineer, a great fat, good-natured fellow, on the other side on a kind of settle; the first and second mate, the cook, and one of the seamen, on the floor; and Miss G—, Miss W—, and myself, on a mattress beside the captain's bed. * * * * During those awful eight hours, from a quarter to eleven until seven in the morning, our feelings were not of the most enviable kind. I think the sound of the parting ship and the cry of those wretched ones will never leave me; they will for ever haunt me. And the sight of that ship gradually breaking up—I cannot think of it. This morning the islanders got their boat ready and brought us all over to Gothenburg, and we are here nicely housed and everything comfortable. We have seen the English and the Russian consuls, and every kindness has been shown us, and every thing done to forward us on our way. They are going to send us clothes, as we have nothing but the things on us saved. Fortunately I had my watch round my neck, and I threw my petticoat and jacket over my night-dress. I had my grey cloak with me, my bodice luckily I got on, and with a silk handkerchief of poor H—, instead of a bonnet, you may imagine how desolate an appearance we presented on our arrival here. It is thought the compass was at fault, not having been properly regulated in Hull. However, all that will, doubtless, be properly inquired into."

An inquest was held on the 15th and 16th inst., on the bodies of Mrs. Sarah Bean, and of Charlotte Cooke, a domestic servant, who were killed at Chelsea in the crowd assembled on the occasion of the Duke of Wellington's lying in state. It appeared that the women had been literally crushed to death, and that the police arrangements for preventing confusion had been very defective. The jury returned a verdict of *Accidental death*; accompanied by an expression of regret that better arrangements were not adopted by the Police authorities for the public safety.

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE Registrar-General's last Quarterly Return of *Marriages, Births, and Deaths* in England, has been published; the marriages in April, May, and June last; the births and deaths in July, August, and September last. The marriages, births, and deaths exceed the average, so that the result is mixed, indicating great activity in all the sources of employment, but no general

diminution in the causes of mortality.—80,014 persons were *Married* in the quarter ending June 30, 1852; and thus 49,007 new families were established, or 5286 more than were established in the corresponding quarter of 1848. The increase in the marriages appears to be general; but it is the greatest in London, where the marriages in the quarter were 6713, or 1304 more than in the corresponding quarter of 1848. In Hampshire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Durham, Cumberland, and South Wales, and generally in the ports from which emigrants sail, an unusual number of marriages was celebrated.—151,193 *Births* were registered in the quarter ending September 30, 1852. The number slightly exceeds the high number registered in the corresponding quarter of 1851, and is greater by 31,371 than the number registered in 1840, when, it is believed, the registration was more imperfect than it is now. Within the last 12 months 621,260 children have been enrolled on the national registers. The rate of births in England is influenced by the seasons; it is higher in the first than it is in the last two quarters of the year, in the proportion of 34 to 31; thus, taking one year with another, the annual rate of births per cent. in the spring quarter is 3.411; in the summer quarter 3.147; the rates in 1852 were 3.516 and 3.291.—100,497 *Deaths* were registered in the quarter ending September 30. This number greatly exceeds the number of deaths in any of the corresponding quarters of previous years, except 1846 and 1849, when 101,663 deaths and 135,235 deaths respectively were registered. The excessive mortality in the summer of 1846 was the result of an extensive epidemic of summer cholera and diarrhoea; Asiatic cholera was epidemic in the summer of 1819; and in the present quarter the chief causes of the increase of deaths were the same as were in operation in 1846. The temperature of summer in 1846 was high, and the summer of 1852 exhibited great variations; on July 5th the temperature exceeded 90°, and through the month of July was 5° above the average; heavy thunderstorms were observed. The two subsequent months were warmer or colder than the average of the season. The annual rate of mortality in the 117 London and other chief town districts for the summer quarters 1849-51 was 2.536 per cent.; for the summer quarter of 1852 it was 2.590. The annual rate of mortality in the other 507 districts of the kingdom was 1.826 and 1.908. The increase was rather less in the town than it was in the country districts.—As 151,193 births and 100,497 deaths have been registered in the quarter, the natural *Increase of Population* is 50,696, which is at the rate of 3899 weekly, and 557 daily. The natural increase is less than it has hitherto usually been, not through any diminution in the number of births, but by the increase of deaths from epidemic causes. *Emigration* has proceeded with increased activity. The emigration from the United Kingdom went on through the summer at a rate which, if it continue the same, will sensibly reduce the population. 109,236 persons left the ports at which there are Government emigration officers; 62,579 sailed for the United States, 7116 for British North America, 38,601 for the Australian colonies, and 940 for other places. 8325 emigrants sailed from Irish, 5976 from Scotch ports. 94,925 sailed from English ports; namely, 70,012 from Liverpool, 5125 from Plymouth, and 21,788 from London. The destination of 14,956 of the emigrants from London was Australia. It is well known that a large proportion of the emigrants that sail from Liverpool are of Irish birth.

A plan, proposed by Mr. Charles Pearson, for *Making a City Railway Terminus*, communicating with the railways north of the Thames, by means of four underground lines, and for constructing large markets, warehouses, and shops along them, has given occasion to a public meeting at the London Tavern on the 1st instant. Mr. Pearson gave a full description of his scheme, and its anticipated advantages; and announced that the directors of the Great Northern Railway had considered and approved of the scheme, and had resolved to negotiate with a company, if one were formed, on a fair and liberal basis. In order to secure a fair beginning, Mr. Pearson undertakes to advance all the cost of giving the requisite notices, and making the necessary preparations for Parliament, without looking for repayment

should the company not proceed. He proposed that the deposits of the capital subscribed should be paid into the Bank of England to the account of trustees (probably the three commercial representatives of the City); and if three-fourths of the capital required is not subscribed by the 7th January next, each shareholder shall receive back his deposit without deduction. The practical result of the meeting was, that resolutions approving of the scheme, and agreeing to these conditions, were passed; and a committee was appointed, including Sir James Duke, Mr. Raikes Currie, Mr. William Williams, and Mr. Sheriff Croll, to take steps to effect the required object.

The *Direct Communication between London and Paris by Submarine Telegraph* was opened on the 1st inst. A numerous company assembled at the office of the company in Cornhill, to witness the experiments. Among them were Lord De Mauley, the Earl of Cadogan, Mr. Masterman, M.P., Mr. Laing, M.P., Count Flabault, Mr. Ernest Bunsen, Mr. Samuel Gurney, Sir J. W. Hogg, Mr. Airey, the astronomer, and many other gentlemen known in commerce, diplomacy, and science. The most striking message, except the last, was sent to Paris at ten minutes past two—"What time is it?" Answer—"2.10 p.m." The last message was as follows:—

"The Directors of the Submarine Telegraph Company beg leave to approach his Highness the Prince President with the expression of their best thanks for the assistance which he has uniformly given towards the establishment of this instantaneous means of communication between France and Great Britain. May this wonderful invention serve, *under the Empire*, to promote the peace and prosperity of the world!"

"Dated Nov. 1, 1852, 30, Cornhill, London."

The *Treatment of Patients in Bethlehem Hospital* became a subject of discussion in the Court of Aldermen on the 2nd inst., in consequence of the official report on the subject, which has recently been published in the *Daily News*. Mr. Alderman Copeland asked whether the Lord Mayor had received a copy of the report, or evidence, or whatever it might be, which had emanated from the committee of inquiry? The Lord Mayor replied, that he had not received a copy; and he referred the matter to Sir Peter Laurie. Sir Peter said, that the authorities of Bethlehem had been prevented by the Secretary of State from sending copies to the governors of the hospital. The committee had in the first instance, last February, directed the report to be printed for the use of its own members; but they were restrained by the influence which the Commissioners in Lunacy brought to bear on Mr. Walpole; and it was not until April that the Secretary of State permitted them to continue the printing, on condition that the report "should be transmitted in the strictest confidence to the members of the committee." Mr. Walpole did not authorise the committee to send copies to the medical officers until the 25th of June, and these were only to be used for the purpose of preparing answers. Sir Peter could not enter into any particulars, as that would be anticipating the answer in preparation. But he must complain of the manner in which the commissioners conducted the inquiry. They had not informed the governors, or the witnesses, of the charges brought forward; nor, when the report had been prepared upon an "*ex-parte* inquisition," had any one been heard in defence. Changes had taken place in the staff of the hospital; a resident physician, apothecary, and matron, had been appointed; but these changes were made irrespectively of any complaint. He believed that in less than a fortnight "the charges would be met by a perfect refutation." Alderman Sidney thought Sir Peter Laurie would commit no breach of honour if he were to contradict the worst charges. Sir Peter declined to contradict anything explicitly; and contented himself by saying "that the report of the commissioners had been greatly coloured." Some other remarks were made, but nothing more was elicited; and the subject dropped.

Various schemes of *Amalgamation of Railway Companies* are now in agitation. At meetings held by London and North-Western, and the Midland Companies, it has been resolved to effect an amalgamation between them on the following terms:—

"That the relative values of the two undertakings be ascertained and fixed by three referees of high standing; that their decision be given after the passing of the Act of Amalgamation; but in case the first application to parliament fails, further application shall be made in the following and ensuing session. It shall, however, be competent for either company to call upon the referees to fix the relative value of the two undertakings, such values not to be in any case fixed until after the 31st of December, 1853."

The York and North Midland, the Leeds Northern, and the York, Newcastle, and Berwick, have also resolved to amalgamate; and they have severally agreed to the following terms:—

"The receipts of the three companies to be thrown into a common purse, and, after payment of working expenses, the neat proceeds to be divided in proportion of 60 per cent. to the York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 33 per cent. to the York and North Midland, and 7 per cent. to the Leeds Northern, in the first year. During each of the six following years, the proportion to be paid to the Leeds Northern to be uniformly increased, until in the seventh year it will reach 9 1-3 per cent. at which it is to continue. The debt due of the three companies to be guaranteed by the amalgamated company, but each company to be chargeable with the interest payable on the amount of debt for which it is individually liable. The neat balance allotted to each company, in conformity with the foregoing articles of agreement, to be divided among the various classes of shareholders, in strict accordance with the financial arrangements by which the three companies are respectively bound at the time of amalgamation; any alterations of those financial arrangements to be made at the risk of the company making them."

A striking instance of the *Rapid Transmission of Intelligence* has occurred in the case of the Queen's speech on the opening of parliament. It was read by her Majesty in the House of Lords at a quarter-past two; and was transmitted so rapidly by the wires of the Submarine Telegraph—being at the rate of forty words a minute—that its receipt was acknowledged by a return message from France at five minutes past three, and a summary of it was posted at the Borsen Hall Exchange-rooms in Hamburg early in the afternoon.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE *Remains of the Duke of Wellington* were brought on the 10th inst. from Walmer Castle to Chelsea Hospital. The preparations for the *Lying in State* were completed on the following day; and the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by several of the royal children, paid a visit to the hall in the afternoon. The arrangements were solemn and impressive. The spacious and lofty hall was entirely hung with black. On the side walls were placed escutcheons of the Wellington family. The raised dais at the top of the hall, on which the remains of the deceased rested, was covered in the centre with a cloth of gold carpet, the bier being formed of black velvet, and surmounted by the coffin, richly decorated with gilding and crimson velvet. On the end of the bier was suspended a display of stars and orders, in number and importance far surpassing anything of the kind ever possessed by a single individual. The whole bier was surrounded by a magnificent silver balustrade adorned with heraldic devices, from which projected ten pedestals, eight of which bore, upon black velvet cushions, the Marshal's batons and orders of the eight following countries:—Great Britain, Hanover, Austria, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, and Spain. The ninth and tenth pedestals bore the Duke's standard and guidon, and attached to all were lion supporters in gold more than two feet high, bearing the shields and banners of the nations enumerated. At the back of the bier was her Majesty's escutcheon. The visitors entered through a long darkened corridor into the vestibule, which was only partially illumined, and in the chapel, also, a few tapers were kept burning, which hardly dispelled the gloom. In the hall four long rows of colossal silver candelabra were distributed, at regular intervals, on either side, and extending to the foot of the dais. The effect of this species of illumination surpassed anything of the kind that has ever been attempted in Catholic cathedrals. A low platform ran along the side walls of the halls, and upon this picked soldiers of the Grenadier Guards stood like statues, resting on their arms

reversed. Around the catafalque the Yeomen of the Guard were stationed, and nine mourners, one half military, the other from the Lord Chamberlain's department, were seated. The chair of the chief mourner was placed at the head of the coffin, and concealed from view. After the royal visit had terminated, the pensioners of the Hospital were permitted to see the hall, and it was a curious and interesting spectacle to behold those old veterans, many of them apparently on the verge of the grave themselves, hobbling up to the coffin of their great commander, and staring at the glittering honours suspended on his bier. To them succeeded parties of the Life Guards and Grenadiers. There were also a few private parties admitted, including ladies, and among the rest crept in a little girls' school and the boys of the Duke of York's school, attached to the Hospital.

On Friday the 12th many persons were admitted by tickets; and on Saturday admission was given to the public. Unfortunately, owing to the enormous press of visitors, and the want of a sufficient police, dreadful confusion took place, two poor women were crushed to death, and many persons were seriously hurt. The scene is thus described by the *Times*:—"The tide of people set in like an inundation, and before the small force of men at the Hospital knew what they were about, the entire approaches were blocked up. Then ensued scenes of confusion and struggles for bare life, frightful shrieks and exclamations of agony, such as will not readily be forgotten by those who were present. Women were knocked down or fainted away; children were held aloft to escape suffocation; strong men were seen with the perspiration, notwithstanding the coldness of the weather, falling in great drops from their faces; and fathers and brothers strove in vain to recover their relatives torn from them in the crowd. The multitude actually smoked like a heated haystack, from the pressure and strain upon individuals. It was necessary (the precautions to secure order having been neglected at the outset) that steps should be taken to restore it, that the carriage-way in front of the Hospital should be cleared, the people confined to the causeway, and a sufficient force obtained to form barriers. Most fortunately, Superintendent Pearce, who had the charge of the police arrangements at the Exhibition, came on duty in the morning, and by his exertions a far greater sacrifice of life than what actually took place was, in all probability, prevented. He sent at once for more men, and, with the aid of the military, had barriers constructed at the points where they were required. So urgent, however, was the need of them, that cabs had to be used for the purpose. It was nearly three o'clock in the afternoon before order was re-established, and the safety of the public adequately provided for. After that time the circulation of the streets was restored, and matters went smoothly enough." Inside the hall throughout the day the most perfect order and decorum prevailed, and 46,831 persons passed through between nine and five o'clock.

On the 15th (Monday) the police arrangements were so much improved, that 80,000 people were enabled to pass through without confusion or accident. On Tuesday and Wednesday the visitors amounted to 100,000 persons. In the evening of that day, the present Duke of Wellington, accompanied by many friends of the family, passed some time uninterrupted in the hall. The household were also admitted to take a last farewell of their illustrious master's remains. At a late hour the coffin was removed to the Horse Guards, the largest apartment in which (the Audience Chamber) had been prepared for its reception.

Thursday the 18th was the day of the *Public Funeral*. Before daybreak the troops appointed to take part in the procession mustered in the Mall and the parade ground beside the Horse Guards. They consisted of the 2nd battalion of the Rifles, the 1st battalion Royal Marines, the 33rd regiment, the regiments of Horse and Foot Guards, the 17th Lancers, the 13th Light Dragoons, and the Scots Greys. As the morning advanced a brilliant muster of officers gathered near the gateway of the Horse Guards. Lord Hardinge appeared at half-past seven o'clock, and his presence greatly accelerated the preparations. The coffin was removed from

the chamber in which it had rested during the night, and by the aid of machinery was raised to its position on the lofty summit of the car. At eight o'clock the hangings of the tent, which concealed it from the view, were suddenly furled. The first minute-gun was fired, the troops presented arms and saluted the body, upon which the roll of the muffled drum, followed by the music of the "Dead March" in *Saul*, announced that the procession had commenced. The order of procession may be thus generally described. Six battalions of infantry marched in front, followed by the cavalry, artillery, a body of Chelsea Pensioners, and several men belonging to the different arms of the East India Company's service. Then followed the standard, or pennon; the Duke's servants, and the Lieutenant and Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower, in coaches; deputations from public bodies, Merchant Tailors' Company, the Trinity House, and others; officers of the Duke's household; military chaplains; the High-Sheriff of Southampton, and Sheriffs of London; the Aldermen and Recorder of London; members of the Order of the Bath; the banner of Wellesley carried by General Lord Saltoun; captains in the army on horseback; the judges; the Secretary at War, Paymaster-General, Judge Advocate-General, Master-General of the Ordnance, and first Lord of the Admiralty; her Majesty's ministers; Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Chancellor representing the House of Lords; the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Mayor; the Duke's aides-de-camp; Prince Albert's carriage drawn by six horses, with officers of his Royal Highness's household; his Royal Highness himself in a carriage drawn by six horses, attended by his Lord Chamberlain and Groom of the Stole; the Serjeant Trumpeter and heralds; the batons of Spain, Russia, Prussia, Portugal, the Netherlands, Hanover, borne by military officers of the respective powers, and the baton of England borne by Marquis of Anglesey; the Duke's coronet, borne on a black cushion by the Clarenceux King at Arms; the pall-bearers, eight general officers in two mourning coaches; the corpse, covered with a black velvet pall, adorned with escutcheons, upon a funeral car drawn by twelve horses, decorated with trophies and heraldic achievements; the Chief Mourner, in a long mourning cloak, accompanied by the Hon. and Rev. Gerald Wellesley and the Hon. W. Wellesley, in a mourning coach; a number of mourning coaches containing friends of the Duke; officers and men from every regiment in the service; the carriages of the Queen, the Duchesses of Gloucester, Kent, and Cambridge; and other private carriages closed the procession. As each regiment or body of troops filed off in the appointed order, its hand led the way, playing the "Dead March" in *Saul*, or other appropriate pieces, accompanied at intervals by the roll of the muffled drums. The men carried their arms reversed. To the troops the mourning coaches and carriages, properly marshalled, succeeded; and the length of the procession may be imagined when it is stated that though the Rifles led the way at eight o'clock, it was twenty-five minutes past nine before the car started, and half an hour later before the extreme rear was in motion. Along the line of the procession the people were assembled in countless multitudes, and it is computed that a million and a half of persons beheld and shared in the ceremonial. Englishmen had come from all parts of the world, and foreigners from every corner of Europe. From Ireland and from Scotland, and from the provinces of England, the wealthy, the curious, and the mourning, had come in thousands for the one purpose, and for no other; and "cheap trains" had poured for several days the humbler classes from the least distant country towns into our streets. And this vast multitude of men and women had to concentrate themselves on ground not more than three miles in length, and not more, at any point, than two hundred yards in breadth, half of that breadth being taken from the public and kept clear for the procession. Yet this mass, without orders, without concert, took up their ground, kept it, and dispersed themselves within fifteen hours, in perfect order, peacefully and contentedly. Two thousand policemen were sufficient to preserve undisturbed peace in this mighty multitude.

The car arrived at the entrance of the Cathedral at ten minutes after twelve. Under the dome, on either side of the area, rose two segments of an amphitheatre. Here were allotted out the seats of the two Houses of Parliament on either side of the amphitheatre, the foremost seats being occupied by the ministry, the judges, and the high functionaries of state. In a small space close to the nave sat the Oxford deputation; in a large space to the east were an array of officers of both services, forming tolerably broad belts of colour, blue and red, bespangled with orders; and on the other side sat the ministers from foreign countries. Above the Lords and Commons towered two huge galleries fifty feet high. In the nave, south and north, were seated a dense body of citizens, fringed at the lower edges with military. In the gallery beneath the organ, devoted to Peeresses, were the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary. The Duchess of Wellington sat alone. In the gallery overlooking Ludgate Hill sat Lord John Russell and the private friends of the Dean. In the centre of the area was a platform, with an opening into the crypt; and ranged round this were seats for the chief participants. When all was ready, the funeral service began. The choristers sang the opening sentences of the burial office in magnificent intonation; and as they slowly moved in procession along the nave, they chanted the 39th and 90th Psalms, to music familiarly known as the composition of the Earl of Mornington, the father of the Duke of Wellington. After them came groups of soldiers, and the foreign marshals, carrying the Duke's several batons; after these Prince Albert, with the sword of state borne before him, and a group of officers following. The coffin was conveyed upon a wheeled bier, the pall flung back, and the white feathers of the Duke's hat waving in the wind which swept up the nave. The car upon which the coffin lay was partially propelled by the persons in charge of the mechanical arrangements, and partly by the private soldiers, gracefully placed side by side with the generals who bore the pall. Among them were Lord Combermere, Lord Hardinge, the Marquis of Londonderry, Viscount Gough, Sir Charles Napier, and Sir George Pollock. Close to the coffin walked, as chief mourner, the Duke of Wellington, supported by the Marquis of Salisbury and the Marquis of Tweeddale; each with the collar of an order placed round the dark cloak in which all the mourners were costumed. A group of these followed; and then a confused mass of servants, soldiers, and the general public. The procession took a considerable time to defile up the nave, stopping every now and then to give the choristers time; but at length, and after some delay, the coffin was slipped from the wheeled bier to the platform, and the mourners and pall-bearers ranged themselves around it. The eldest son of the late Duke stood at his father's head; the generals, his father's old companions in arms, on either side of the coffin, and the foreign marshals at the foot. Prince Albert, in a field marshal's uniform, stood in the centre of the south side. As soon as the coffin was placed upon the platform on which it was to descend, the Duke's hat and sword were taken away, and a cushion and his coronet substituted. Dean Milman then read the remainder of the service in a clear and sonorous voice; and the choir—which, although it might have been stronger, contained many of the best voices in London—sang the "Nunc dimittis" to a chant adapted from Beethoven, and a dirge by Mr. Goss, the organist of St. Paul's, containing striking trumpet passages, leading to the very solemn and effective "Dead March" in *Saul*: in the midst of which the coffin slowly sank away from the gaze of thousands of eyes fixed upon it into the darkness of the tomb. The disappearance was very striking. The platform with the body stood for one moment as firm in appearance as the floor; the next—both were gone. Dean Milman resumed the part of the burial service spoken when the body is in ground. At its conclusion, Garter King of Arms, proclaimed the style of the deceased in the usual form, reciting the brilliant catalogue of the titles and offices of trust and honour held by the deceased; a wand was broken, and the fragments flung down upon the coffin. Then the benediction was pronounced by the Bishop of London; Mendelssohn's

"Sleepers, awake" was chanted—and the ceremonial terminated. When all was ended, the soldiers marched off to their quarters by various ways, none returning through the route traversed in the morning.

The Rev. Robert Whiston, who has been *Re-instated* by the judgment of the Bishop of Rochester in the head-mastership of Rochester school (see *Household Narrative* for Sept., p. 225), has addressed a letter of thanks to the press for the support given to his cause by its principal organs. He says that, though convinced of the illegality of the decision, he has determined to accept it in so far as it affects his own rights and claims; "but," he adds, "the important question, whether the dean and chapter have or have not 'illegally taken to themselves a disproportionate share of the cathedral revenues,' still remains to be decided; and I do not doubt that, if I desire and deserve it, your support for the future will be given as readily and powerfully as it has been in the past."

Out of the property bequeathed by the late Mr. Neild to the Queen, amounting to 250,000*l.*, her Majesty has made an ample provision for the two domestics of Mr. Neild, whose interests were totally disregarded by him in his will."

Obituary of Notable Persons.

SIR W. NEWBIGGER, the eminent Scottish physician, died in Edinburgh on the 30th of October.

CAPTAIN T. WESTWORT BULLER, one of the title commissioners, died at Wimpole, in Devonshire, on the 30th of October.

SIR EDWARD STANLEY, for many years inspector of city prisons in Dublin, has died in that city, in his 83rd year.

ADMIRAL ZACHARY MUDGE, died on the 26th ult. in his 83rd year.

DANIEL WEBSTER, the great American statesman, died at Marshfield, on the 24th ult., in his 70th year.

MAX JOSEPH EUGENE AUGUSTES NAPOLEON, Duke of Leuchtenberg, second son of Duke Eugene of Leuchtenberg, and grandson of Viscount Brachmarais and Josephine, afterwards Empress of the French, died at St. Petersburg, on the 5th inst., aged 35. He was Adjutant-General of the Emperor, a Lieutenant-General of the Army, and President of the Academy of Arts at St. Petersburg.

DR. SCHOLZ, one of the most eminent oriental scholars in Germany, has died at Bonn, where he was a Professor.

THE EARL OF SURESBURY died at Naples, on the 9th instant, after a short illness.

GIDEON ALGERSON MANTELL, LL.D., F.R.S., for some time one of the Vice-Presidents of the Geological Society, died at his house in Chester-place, Piccadilly, on the 10th inst., very suddenly.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THERE are accounts from the *Cape of Good Hope* to the 9th of October. In consequence of a general order issued from Fort Beaufort on the 20th September, the Waterkloof is cleared of the Caffres under Macomo. General Cathcart with 3000 troops superintended the operations by means of which this desirable result was effected. The enemy was panic-stricken, offered little resistance, and many who tried to conceal themselves were killed. The Commander-in-Chief speaks highly of the "energy and admirable conduct of the troops, Burghers, Levies, and Fingoos." The rebel Hottentot leader, Uithaolder, had made overtures of peace to General Cathcart; who replied, that he would treat of nothing but "unconditional surrender." The non-arrival of the Constitution had caused much dissatisfaction.

The *Canadian* legislature, on the 15th of October, resolved upon an address to the Queen, praying for the imposition of duties on the produce of foreign nations entering English ports, equivalent to those which said nations impose on the produce of England and her Colonies; also, for the repeal of laws conferring on American vessels advantages the Canadian vessels do not enjoy in American waters.

Advices from *Corfu* of the 12th inst., state that the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands has published a limited amnesty in favour of the participants in the Cephallonian outbreak. Seventeen prisoners are restored to liberty, and four exiled.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE *French President* has been proceeding with the steps preparatory to his formal assumption of the Imperial Crown. The Senate, convoked on his return from his progress through the provinces, after several sittings, passed on the 7th inst. the following *Senatus-Consultum* :—

ART. 1. The Imperial dynasty is re-established. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte is Emperor of the French, under the name of Napoleon III.

ART. 2. The Imperial dignity is hereditary in the direct descendants, natural and legitimate, of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, from male to male, by order of primogeniture, and to the perpetual exclusion of the females and their descendants.

ART. 3. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, should he not have any male child, may adopt the children and descendants, natural and legitimate, in the male branch of the brothers of the Emperor Napoleon I. The forms and conditions of such adoption shall be regulated by a *Senatus-consultum*. If, at a period posterior to such adoption, Louis Napoleon should happen to have male children, the adopted sons cannot be called to the throne until after the natural and legitimate descendants. Adoption is interdicted to the successors of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte and their descendants.

ART. 4. Louis Napoleon regulates by an organic decree, addressed to the Senate, and deposited in his archives, the order of succession to the throne in the Bonaparte family, in case he should leave no direct, legitimate, or adoptive heir.

ART. 5. In default of any natural and legitimate or adopted heir of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, and of the successors in a collateral line which shall derive their right in the above-

mentioned organic decree, a *Senatus-consultum*, proposed to the Senate by the Ministers assembled in council, with the adjunction of the Presidents, acting as such in the Senate, in the legislative corps, and in the Council of State, and submitted to the people for acceptance, shall name the Emperor, and regulate in his family the order of succession from male to male, to the perpetual exclusion of the females and of their descendants. Up to the moment when the election of the new Emperor is terminated, the affairs of the state are to be governed by the Ministers then in functions; who are to form a council of government, and to deliberate by a majority of votes.

ART. 6. The members of the family of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, called by circumstances within the line of succession, and their descendants of both sexes, form part of the Imperial family. A *Senatus-consultum* will regulate their position. They cannot marry without the consent of the Emperor; and their marriage, contracted without such authorisation, involves the privation of all claim to the succession, both for him who has contracted it and for his descendants.

ART. 7. The Constitution of 15th January, 1852, is maintained in all the enactments which are not contrary to the present *Senatus-consultum*; and no modifications can be made in it except in the forms and by the means provided for the purpose.

ART. 8. The following proposition shall be submitted to the people for acceptance in the forms determined by the decrees of the 2nd and 4th December, 1851—"The people desires the re-establishment of the Imperial dignity in the person of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, with the succession in its direct descendants natural and legitimate, or adopted; and gives him the right to regulate the order of succession to the throne in the Bonaparte family, as provided for by the *Senatus-consultum* of the 7th day of November, 1852."

On the same day a decree was issued, calling upon the French people to "accept or reject" the above Senate-Consultum on the 21st and 22nd inst.; and the Legislative body at the same time was convoked for the 25th inst., "to certify the regularity of the votes, cast this up, and declare the result." The vote by ballot was accordingly taken, in the metropolis and throughout France, on Sunday and Monday, the 21st and 22nd. The declaration of the result has not yet been received; but the majority appears to be even greater than that of the 20th of December.

A political refugee, named Barral, from Avenières (Ain), was arrested at Chamborg on the 17th under curious circumstances. He arrived, as a traveller, at the Hotel du Petit Marseille, and having engaged a room, desired that great care might be taken to keep the door closed while he went out for a short time. He expected, he said, a person to ask for him, and would pay for whatever refreshments might be served to his friend. As he was about to leave the house a police commissioner, attended by several carabinieri, arrested him. His room was searched, and 200 copies of "Napoleon the Little," and five packets of gunpowder were found.

Complete tranquillity prevails in every part of France.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany has expelled from his dominions all the Lombard, Roman, and Neapolitan refugees. About one thousand individuals, but slightly, if at all, compromised in the political troubles of their own states, or they would not have been permitted by Austria to remain here from 1849 to the present time, have received an order to quit Tuscany within five days. Some among them are men of rank and fortune, whose expenditure, added to that of their fellow-countrymen, has been of late the chief support of the rapidly decaying trade of Florence.

The Earl of Roden, the head of the deputation to the Grand Duke of Tuscany to intercede for the release of the Madiais, has communicated to Lord Shaftesbury, in a letter dated the 26th ult., the failure of the mission. Having addressed a letter to the Duke of Castiglione, the Tuscan Minister for Foreign Affairs, praying to be admitted to an audience by the Grand Duke, the deputation received the following negative reply:—

"His Imperial and Royal Highness, while appreciating the course you have adopted in this matter, would certainly have repelled any political pressure whatever, and the honourable diplomatic agents resident at this Court would have been careful to avoid it. The Madiais (man and wife), Tuscan subjects, to whom you refer, have been condemned to five years imprisonment by the ordinary tribunals for the crime of propagating Protestantism, which is proscribed by our laws as an attack upon the religion of the State. Their punishment is the application of these laws, and their appeal for a reversal of their sentence has been rejected by the Court of Cassation. His Imperial and Royal Highness, in reserving to himself the exercise of his high prerogative in such cases, and at such times as he may judge right, cannot admit any interposition in a case which concerns the administration of justice in his States and his acts towards his own subjects. My august Sovereign, recognising the benevolent sentiments by which you have been actuated, but not considering it necessary to listen to any kind of intervention on this subject, commands me to inform you, my lord, that he regrets being unable to grant the audience solicited by you and the other gentlemen who have signed the letter which has been addressed to me."

Lord Roden, in communicating this answer to Lord Shaftesbury, says:—

"We feel that the substance of this answer is such as to induce us to hope that although our immediate request has been denied, yet that it is the intention of his Imperial and Royal Highness to extend his pardon to the Madiais at no distant period. We therefore think it would be imprudent in us to take any further step at the present time, except to send to the Duke of Castiglione a copy of our intended address to his Imperial and Royal Highness, had he favoured us with an audience. It is our intention to ask the leave of the Tuscan Government to visit the prisoners at Volterra and at Lunca, and I hope, on our return to England, we shall be able to give you, and those whose delegates we are, every information with respect to the circumstances in which the Madiais are placed, and the hopes which we entertain for their speedy release."

The executions at Ancona, on the 25th ult., may be reckoned amongst the most appalling ever witnessed. Only one of the culprits out of the nine would listen to

the exhortations of the priests. When it was found that the other eight were hopelessly reculant, they were allowed to intoxicate themselves with rum. The shooting of them was entrusted to a detachment of Roman artillerymen, armed with short carbines, old-fashioned weapons, many of which missed fire, so that at the first discharge some of the prisoners did not fall, but ran off, with the soldiers pursuing and firing at them repeatedly; others crawled about, and one wretch, after being considered dead, made a violent exertion to get up, rendering a final *coup de grace* necessary.

The two chambers of the *Sardinian Parliament* met on the 19th inst. The Senate, after organising its standing committees, heard the report on the sanitary international convention, which is to be discussed on the 25th. The Chamber of Deputies discussed and adopted a project of law relative to the sale of national property in Sardinia, but, the number of members present at the close not being sufficient to validate the vote, the ballot was postponed to the next day. M. Massimo d'Azeglio had taken his seat in the centre, the benches of which were nearly all occupied. The members of the right were at their posts, but many of the left and left centre oppositions were absent.

There are advices from *New York* to the 13th inst. The only important articles of intelligence are the death of the celebrated statesman Daniel Webster, and the election of General Franklin Pierce, the democratic candidate, to the Presidency. Mr. Webster died at his house at Marshfield on the 24th of October. He was buried on the 29th in the private grounds of Marshfield. His friends in great numbers attended the funeral. Before the body was carried to the grave, it was placed in an open coffin, on a bier beneath one of the large poplar trees on the lawn; and thousands pressed around to take a last look at the face of the departed. Two garlands of oak leaves and acorns, and two bunches of flowers, were laid upon the coffin. It was closed, and borne to the grave; the burial service was read by the village pastor, and at half-past two the earth covered the remains. Ten thousand persons attended the funeral. Among them were General Franklin Pierce, Governor Marcy of New York, Mr. Edward Everett, Mr. Abbott Lawrence, Governor Boutwell of Massachusetts, Mr. Secretary Conrad (alone of the Fillmore Cabinet), and Judge Sprague. Funeral commemorations have taken place throughout the States of the Union. The Presidential election took place on the 2nd instant; and at the same time the Hon. W. H. King was elected Vice-President. Mr. Everett, formerly ambassador to England, has been appointed Secretary of State.

From *New Orleans* information has been received that 600 of the National Guard at Matamoras recently revolted and fled to the American side. After organising they returned and gave battle to 1500 of the Mexican troops under General Avalos, whom they defeated, and compelled to beat a hasty retreat to Matamoras.

There are accounts from *California* to the 20th ult. Gold in immense quantities still continues to flow into San Francisco, as the great shipments from that place to the Atlantic seem to indicate. The steamer Oregon, which sailed on the 16th of October, had as freight the enormous amount of 2,406,712 dolrs. in gold dust, being the largest shipment which ever left San Francisco in one vessel. The Illinois brought nearly 2,000,000 dolrs.

The latest advices from *Mexico* describe that country as being in a convulsed state. Revolutionary schemes were in progress in all directions; the government was trembling in the terrible excitement of the people, and what was worse than all, a French squadron was daily expected at Vera Cruz to support the demand for payment of the French creditors, and a Spanish man-of-war was also looked for at San Francisco to enforce the payment of the debts due to the government of her Catholic Majesty. Everything seems to indicate that the Mexican States are about dropping to pieces, and that the United States should be ready to receive them, one by one, as they become detached from the main stem.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE usual flow of publication at the height of the winter season has been somewhat checked by currents of interest setting strongly in other directions. But, apart from the Wellington Literature, which of course has been abundant, some few interesting books have appeared during the past month.

Mr. Bancroft, the late American Minister at St. James's, has added a second volume to his *History of the American Revolution*, treating of that part of his subject comprised between the early months of 1763 and the summer of 1766, or, as the historian himself expresses it, the epoch in the great drama during which "England estranged America." Sir Francis Head has published a volume descriptive of a *Fortnight in Ireland*, of which the principal drift is to show how sedulously the Roman Catholic priests are now engaged in estranging England from Ireland. And a relative of the once great Liberator, Miss Catherine M. O'Connell, has in a very different spirit related *Excursions in Ireland during 1841 and 1850*, which derive their chief interest from repeated visits to the now desolate Derrynane.

Mr. Augustus St. John, so well known by his classical researches and works on the East, has reproduced some results of his early travel, in a half-fanciful half-narrative form, with the title of *Isis, an Egyptian Pilgrimage*. Mr. Hillier has transcribed and deciphered the Correspondence of Charles the First with Colonel Titus while the latter was engaged in the king's unsuccessful schemes to evade the custody of parliament, purchased recently for the British Museum; and he accompanies them with a narrative, hardly so elucidatory as might have been desired, of *The Attempted Escapes of Charles the First from Carisbrook Castle, and of his Detection in the Isle of Wight*. Doctor Hamilton Drummond has issued a volume on *Ancient Irish Minstrelsy* filled with original translations of old Irish ballads, and with other apt and learned illustrations of his theme. Mr. Jerdan, in a third volume, has continued his *Autobiography*.

Other miscellaneous books also deserve attention. Captain Baird Smith, employed by the East India Company to ascertain and describe the methods of irrigation used in Northern Italy, with a view to contemplated improvements in India, has published the result of his inquiry, accompanied by important plans and sections, under the title of *Italian Irrigation, a Report on the Agricultural Canals of Piedmont and Lombardy*. The author of a fictitious diary, supposed to have been written by the wife of Milton, has followed up her success in that graceful effort with a supposed narrative by a fortunate citizen's apprentice during the time of the early struggles and settlement of the Reformation (Edward VI. to Elizabeth), *The Colloquies of Edward Osborne*. Major Hough has embodied the experience of a forty years' service in India, as well as the results of his access to official papers illustrating an earlier period of English supremacy in the East, obtained as a deputy judge-advocate-general in the Bengal army, under the title of *Political and Military Events in British India from the years 1756 to 1819*. Professor Eastwick, of Haileybury College, has translated for the first time into prose and verse the famous *Gulistan*, or *Rose Garden*, of the immortal Sadi, by far the most popular of all the writers of the East. And the book deserves notice, even apart from its intrinsic literary value, for the elegant form and rich illustration which it owes to the spirit of a publisher in a small provincial town, Mr. Austin of Hertford. An illustrated edition has been given, in the Library of Messrs. Ingram & Cooke, of Captain Wilkes's well known *United States Exploring Expedition* during 1838-1842; and in the same Library have also appeared, *The Cabin Book, or National Characteristics*, a translation from the German, descriptive of Texan and Mexican life and manners; and another translation, also from the German, of Juliette Bauer's *Lives of the Brothers Humboldt, Alexander and William*.

Nor, speaking of serial or library publications, should we omit to record that Mr. Bohn has added to his Classical Library a volume of the *Orations of Demosthenes*, translated by Mr. C. R. Kennedy; to his Anti-

quarian Library, a first volume of *Matthew Paris's English History*, translated and edited by Dr. Giles; to his Scientific Library, a translation of Schow's *Earth, Plants, and Man*, and of von Kobell's *Sketches from the Mineral Kingdom*, both executed by the very competent hand of Mr. Arthur Henfrey; to his Philological Library, an *Analysis and Summary of Herodotus*, by Mr. Talboys; and to his Standard Library, a volume of Bacon's *Moral and Historical Works*, comprising the Essays, Aphorisms, Wisdom of the Ancients, Henry the Seventh, and Historical Fragments. Mr. F. Lancelot has contributed another to the many descriptions with which intending emigrants have, during the last twelve months, been favoured, of *Australia as it is, its Settlements, Farms, and Gold Fields*; the Rev. George Trevor, one of the Canons of York, has provided us with a not unuseful illustration of one of the exciting Church questions of the day, in an account professed to be strictly historical, though tinged here and there with high church opinions, of *The Convocations of the Two Provinces*; Mr. Godwin has republished from the Builder a series of graceful and well-informed letters on famous architectural remains, under the title of *History in Ruins*; and Miss Power publishes once again the last survivor of the old annuals and gift-books, *The Keepsake*, more prettily illustrated than usual, and still supported by several famous names in literature appended to contributions not unworthy of them.

In the department of fiction there have been several additions during the past month. Mr. Thackeray has published his three-volume novel of *Esmond*, a story in which the manner of a writer of the days of Queen Anne is very happily assumed. A new novel of Irish life, by Mr. Carleton, has appeared, *Red Hall, or the Baronet's Daughter*. The author of Paddiana has given us the *Life and Opinions of Dr. Blenkinsop*, comprising actual adventures and sketches of real life within a framework of fiction. Miss Geraldine Jewsbury has published a juvenile tale, called *The History of an Adopted Child*. To Mr. Wilkie Collins we are indebted for *Basil, a Story of Modern Life*; another story of the day has appeared as *The Fortunes of Francis Craft, an Autobiography*; and Mrs. Marsh, the author of the *Two Old Men's Tales*, has added *Castle Aron* to her interesting series of works of fiction.

In conclusion, the principal additions of the last month to what we may call the Wellington Literature, may be briefly stated in their order of publication, after singling out, as worthy of separate mention, the Poet Laureate's *Ode*. They have included a reproduction of the original designs and etchings, with descriptive notes, of *The Wellington Shield*, designed by Stothard; a republication, in parts, of Booth's *History of the Battles of Quatre-Bras and Waterloo*, published at the time of the victory with a great many etchings by Mr. George Jones, and now further recommended by a facsimile of the Duke's letter to the publisher expressive of the pleasure with which, in those early days of his victories (he cured of the habit in later life) he meant to read the narrative; M. John Lemoine's *Wellington from a French point of view*; *Wellington Lyrics*, by Mrs. E. Francis Smith; *Wellingtoniana*, or anecdotes selected by John Timbs; *Wellington and Waterloo*, by Alphonse De Lamartine; the first volume of a *Life of the Duke of Wellington*, by Mr. J. H. Stoeckler; a small illustrated book called *The Military and Political Life of the Duke of Wellington*; Mr. Nicholas Michell's poem on the *Burial of Wellington*; an Oxford Graduate's *Elegy on the same subject*; Mr. T. Binney's dissertation on *Wellington as Warrior, Senator, and Man*; a tract filled with *The Wisdom of Wellington, or Maxims of the Iron Duke*; a spirited *Eloge*, delivered at Edinburgh on the day of the funeral, by the Sheriff of Mid-Lothian; and a brief essay on the *Life and Character of the Duke of Wellington*, by Lord Ellesmere, which is distinguished from the great mass of the publications enumerated, by the act of its containing here and there a fresh and original impression of the Duke's opinions and conversation.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the London Gazette of Oct. 29th.—J. KEELEY and E. WILLIAMS, Strand, and Fleet-street, City, tailors.—S. T. JONES, King William-street, City, and Upper-Ground-street, Lambeth, coal-agent.—A. NEWBOLD and E. NEWBOLD, Birmingham, drapers.—E. NICHOLLS, Stourbridge, Oldswinford, Worcester-shire, licensed victualler.—L. HINDLE, Denholme, Bradford, Yorkshire, manufacturer.—J. SPENCER and J. PULLAN, Thornton, Bradford, Yorkshire, top-makers.—T. WOODWARD, Liverpool, butcher.—J. NANSON, junior, Seaham-harbour, Durham, ship-broker.

Nov. 2nd.—J. BARTEN, Sutton Valence, Kent, brewer.—A. BELLETTI, West India Dock-road, Limehouse, mahogany-merchant.—J. MILNES, Rochdale, Lancashire, woolstapler.—E. FYFE, jun. Calcutta, merchant.—C. OLLIVER, New Bond-street, musiceller.—R. WARREN, Nelson-place, Remington-street, City-road, coach-maker.—B. WALK, Tottenham-court-road, straw-bonnet manufacturer.—F. LOADER, Berkhamstead, tailor.—J. BICKFORD, Brighton, silversmith.—R. ATMORE, Gaywood, Norfolk, miller.—A. and E. alias EDWIN NEWBOLD, Birmingham, drapers.—J. G. MENON, Birmingham, stationer.—C. W. CROSS, Birmingham, surgeon.—A. MITCHELL, Cardiff, draper.—J. McINTOCK, Barnsley, linen-manufacturer.—J. BENFORD, Wakefield, cloth-merchant.—R. RICHARDS, Wrexham, chemist.

Nov. 5th.—N. COBB, Colchester, auctioneer.—W. GREEN, Harrow-road, builder.—J. ROBERTSON, Woolwich, publican.—G. PRENTICE, Artillery-lane, victualler.—W. NOBLE, Charles-street, St. George's East, stay-manufacturer.—W. T. HANNAH, Brighton, wine-merchant.—W. WOOD, jun., Birmingham, builder.—T. FORSHAW, Birkenhead, mariner.—W. LONGSON, Heaton Norris, Lancashire, joiner.—J. DOOTSON, Wigan, cotton-spinner.—B. ARMSTRONG, Manchester, tailor.

Nov. 9th.—T. FULLER, Brompton, victualler.—H. EVERETT, Colchester, builder.—H. JACOBS, otherwise G. M. JACOBS, Great Union-street, Borough-road, glass-dealer.—J. B. BLYTHE, Minerva-place, New Cross, builder.—J. LABROO, Leeds, cloth-merchant.

Nov. 12th.—G. PAGE, James-street, Bethnal-green, coach-proprietor.—W. McKAY, Upper Kennington-lane, draper.—C. WEISMANN, and J. M. MEYERS, Philpot-lane, commission-merchants.—C. ARNOLD, Watling-street, provision-dealer.—R. WHITTAKER, Landport, outfitter.—J. DOBSON, High Holborn, mathematical-instrument-maker.—M. GROSSE and D. C. SANDERS, Oxford-street, tailors.—J. PATTERSON, Atherstone, Warwickshire, gardener.—G. E. JAMES, Kingswinford, Staffordshire, draper.—J. WILSON and C. P. WOODFIN, Hull, iron-founders.—G. SIDDALL, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, spindle-manufacturer.—G. FIELDER, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, woolstapler.

Nov. 16th.—J. WARREN, Runigate, stationer.—J. BARTON, Sutton Valence, Kent, brewer.—B. ATWELL, Westbury, Wiltshire, builder.—J. METCALF, Fenchurch-street, merchant.—W. BARLEYMAN, Feering, Essex, carpenter.—J. HILL, Prospect-place, Holloway-road, builder.—J. BECKETT, Reading, coal-merchant.—G. E. JAMES, Brierly-hill, Staffordshire, draper.—W. FAWKNER, Kidderminster, victualler.—W. H. HOLLAND and R. DRABBERS, Manchester, commission-agents.

Nov. 19th.—J. H. DAVY, Parker-street, Drury-lane, coach-wheelwright.—J. FELL, New-street, New-road, builder.—J. WINZAR, Salisbury, apothecary.—C. GOLDEN, Croyley-street, Hoxton, broker.—R. PRITCHARD, Bangor, ale-dealer.—R. PAGE, junior, Liverpool, iron-founder.—W. ROBERTS, Lethesda, Carnarvonshire, joiner.—F. PRICE, Bristol, button-dealer.—J. HALL, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, corn-factor.

Nov. 26th.—W. NORTHWOOD, Wignmore-street, Cavendish-square, cabinet-maker.—J. I. EVANS, Harrow-road, Paddington, clothier.—J. TAYLOR, Hoxne, Suffolk, grocer.—H. FISHER and E. W. SELWOOD, Aldersgate-street, City, milliners and lacemen.—J. GAZLEY, King's Lynn, carpenter.—T. CROSSLEY, Noble-street, City, commission-agent.—H. KENNALL, Hastings, stationer.—J. T. WHEATLEY, Crammer-place, Waterloo-bridge-road.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

Oct. 20th.—W. PROSSER, Shoreditch, draper.

Oct. 26th.—H. JACKMAN, Birmingham, builder.

Nov. 12th.—J. J. MOREWOOD, Finsbury-street, merchant.

MONEY MARKET.

The English Stock Market has been steady during the month, and prices have risen nearly 1 per cent.; the closing price of Consols on the 26th of October having been 100½; and on the 25th instant, 101½. No effect was produced by the Queen's speech.

Foreign Stocks have been firm, and likewise Railway Shares; no variations of consequence having taken place in any of them.

STOCKS.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	101½	100½	101½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	100½	99½	100½
Three and a quarter per Cents. .	103½	102½	103½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1850 . . .	6½	6½	6½
Bank Stock	224½	221	223
Exchequer Bills	78	70	72
India Bonds	87 pm.	83	83

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Brazilian 5 per cent., 101½	Peruvian 6 per cent., defd. 104
Chilian 6 per cent., 106	Portuguese 4 per cent., 38½
Danish 3 per cent., 83	Russian 5 per cent., 119
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 97	Spanish 3 per cent., 52½
Mexican 3 per cent., 24½	Sardinian, 5 per cent., 99½

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	108½	105½	108½
all	Blackwall	94	8½	9½
St. 100	Caledonian	65½	59½	65½
all	Eastern Counties	12½	12½	12½
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow . . .	79	74½	79
" 100	Great Northern	85½	83	85½
" 100	Great Western	96½	94½	96½
" 100	Lancashire and Yorkshire . .	87½	86½	87½
" 100	London & North-Western . . .	124½	123½	123½
" 100	Midland	79	78½	79
" 100	North British	40	36	40
" 100	South-Eastern and Dover . .	79½	77½	79½
" 100	York, Newc., and Berwick . .	76½	70½	76½
" 100	York and North Midland . . .	61	54	61

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Rouen, 40
East Indian, 9½ pm.	Paris and Strasbourg, 34½
Namur and Liege, 8½	Rouen and Havre, 20½
Northern of France, 35½	Tours and Nantes, 13½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 39s. 11d.; Barley, 30s. 2d.; Oats, 18s. 7d.; Rye, 27s. 8d.; Beans, 35s. 4d.; Peas, 32s. 6d.; Flour, (town made), delivered, 40s. to 43s.; American, per barrel, 19s. to 24s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., Irish, 43s. to 50s.; middles, 51s. to 53s.	Ham, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 70s. to 80s.; Irish, 50s. to 74s.; Westphalia, 41s. to 50s.
Beef, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 2s. 4d. to 3s. 8d.	Mutton, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 3s. to 4s.
Butter.—Best fresh, 14s. per doz.; Carlow, 80s. to 84s. per cwt.; Dutch Friesland, 82s. to 86s.; Limerick, 72s. to 76s.	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 60s. to 72s.; Kent and Essex middling, 55s. to 70s.; Chats, 22s. to 24s.
Cheese, per cwt.—Cheshire, 42s. to 68s.; Derby, plain, 48s. to 58s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 28s. to 36s.; American, 32s. to 41s.; Eggs, per 120, French, 4s. 3d. to 5s.	Pork, 3s. to 4s. 4d.
	Veal, per 8 lb., 2s. 10d. to 4s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Coconut, per cwt. Ord. to good red Trinidad, 31s. to 41s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 28s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Muscovado, 25s. 6d.; Jamaica, 30s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 26s. to 32s.; Brazil, 31s. 6d. to 40s.
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord. native Ceylon, 45s. to 95s.; Mocha, 64s. to 90s.; Sumatra, 34s. to 37s.; Java, 42s. to 48s.	Tea, per lb. (duty 2s. 1d. and 5 per cent.)—Ord. to good fine Congou, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 7d.; Souchong, com. to fine, 9d. to 1s. 9d.; ord. to fine Hyson, 1s. 1d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal fine white, 10s. 3d. to 12s. 0d.; Madras, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.; Patna, cleaned, 12s. to 18s.	

Candles, per 12 lb., 5s. 4d.	Coals, per ton.—Metton, 18s.; Tees, 17s. 9d.
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OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 34½ 10s.	Olive, Gallipoli per ton, 55s.
Sperm, 86½ to 87½.	Linsed, per cwt., 27½ 15s. to 28s.
Cod, 33½.	
Palm, per cwt., 29s. to 30s.	

THE

HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE

OF CURRENT EVENTS.

1852.]

FROM THE 27TH NOVEMBER TO THE 28TH DECEMBER.

[PRICE 2d.]

NOTICE.—*The readers of the "HOUSEHOLD NARRATIVE OF CURRENT EVENTS" are respectfully informed that it has been decided, in the future Volumes, commencing with the ensuing month of January, to abandon the introductory article which has hitherto formed a part of each month's number under the head of THE THREE KINGDOMS. This alteration has been determined on, both in consideration of the advisability of separating the expression of opinion from a faithful record of events; and in consideration of that record requiring all the space we can allot to it.*

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE Derby ministry have fallen in the impossible attempt to reconcile their old beliefs to their new necessities. In undertaking to steer the ship by reckonings they still refused to have faith in, they have suffered shipwreck. It is to be hoped that what may be found worth saving from the wreck will not be rejected by the new hands. For among the new hands are understood to be all the very cleverest and most experienced navigators that have passed most-part of their lives, whether long or short, in those stormy and dangerous seas. Lord Aberdeen is Prime Minister, Lord Cranworth Lord High Chancellor, and Lord John Russell Foreign Secretary and leader of the Commons; the Duke of Newcastle is Colonial Secretary, Lord Palmerston Home Secretary, and Mr. Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir James Graham is at the Admiralty, Sir Charles Wood at the Board of Control, Sir William Molesworth at the Board of Works, Mr. Cardwell at the Board of Trade, and Mr. Sidney Herbert at the War Office; while Lord Granville, the Duke of Argyll, and Lord Lansdowne give also to the new Cabinet the grave authority and eager promise of the youngest and oldest of Whig statesmen. It may be taken for granted that such men as these will have no false pride in saving out of the late disaster what yet may be found seaworthy, even though it should involve their completing "what other men began."

For instance, we should say that Mr. Disraeli's light dues and pilotage reforms are well worth bringing to land. So is the abolition of the disgraceful claim of salvage for assistance to merchantmen in distress. So are the mitigations of compulsory modes of impressment. So, beyond all doubt, are the Tea Duties. And so, we should have said, was the attempt to put some distinction between property and income in the levy of the tax on both, if it had not been accompanied by incidents which too plainly revealed the drift of the attempted change.

Nowhere was it so awkwardly apparent that town and country were to be placed in antagonism by the defeated budget, as in its otherwise laudable arrangements to distinguish sources of property and income. The schedules in which the reduction of rate took place were not only so framed as to include the tenant farmers, but this favoured class were no longer to have their income rated at half their rents, as at present, but at a third. In other words, their contribution to the state was at one stroke to be reduced by a full half, while at the same moment, by the simple process of extending the limits of other

taxable incomes, the deficiency was to be supplied at the cost of all the small shopkeepers in the kingdom, and of all the better kind of artisans. Nor was this the whole of the mischief in that direction. For a pretence of relief to the farmer which no one believes would have been materially felt even by him, and certainly by the consumer would not have been felt in any discernible degree, not only was the house and shop tax doubled, but its area was extended to include the 10l. as well as the 20l. house; and thus, by these means, while every rustic village in the kingdom would have been exempted, as well as the dwellings of large numbers of small farmers, the net of liability would have been precisely so thrown as to disfranchise all, whom it did not enmesh, of the dwellers in 10l. houses.

No one will regret that such arrangements as these should be thrown overboard, and sink to the bottom. On the other hand there are some law bills, and matters of that kind, worth bringing ashore, with the better points of the defeated budget. For example, the bill introduced to abolish technical forms of action in the law courts in Ireland, and sweep away altogether the absurdities of special pleading, is too good to be lost; nay, it is much too good not to be extended in fairness to England as well. For it is wonderful how much easier, in future, politicians are likely to find the task of grappling with the iniquities of law. It took but three or four lines in the Gazette to make a sound legal reformer of the greatest as well as ablest opponent of all legal reform; and it required not more than two or three weeks, with a Sugden on the woolsack, to fight victoriously the first pitched battle with that monster of Chancery which has overridden us for centuries. A great many more remain to be fought; and happily there remains not one of the old defenders of abuse to make victory uncertain or difficult.

Indeed this, after all, is the great gain we may reckon to have got out of the Derby Administration. It has turned impracticable into practicable men. It has exploded the impossible absurdities of protection, compensation, and so forth, which have for six years been the main obstruction in the way of all useful legislation. It has ended a foolish as well as selfish setting up of class against class; and has finally taught the farmer that the only friends in whom he may hereafter safely trust, are his own activity, energy, and self-improvement.

These are very valuable legacies to be left us by a

defunct Administration; nor let us forget, either, that their successors may find it worth while to imitate, as it will be no very arduous labour to surpass, what they have done, or rather showed the disposition to do, in regard to the Arts, and their recognition by the state. The speech in which Mr. Disraeli described the proposed scheme of a great Industrial University, and incidentally touched on the civilising and ennobling influences of art upon a nation, was one of his most pleasing efforts; and the readiness with which the house of commons voted without a division the money asked for, showed a faith in the good sense of their constituencies highly creditable to the honourable members, and likely to have results of a more important and extended nature. The details of the particular plan are of course open to all kinds of criticism, but its basis is excellent. The daily increasing facilities of rapid intercourse, and the character and tendencies of modern legislation, are gradually placing all countries very nearly on a level, in so far as the raw material of industry is concerned; and the ground of competition in future will be much more in the larger field of invention and intellect, than in the narrower one of mere industry. As the late Chancellor of the Exchequer remarked in his very able speech, the intellectual element in the art of production must be more studied and cultivated than heretofore. In other words, to carry on an equal struggle with other countries, we must organise a system of industrial education such as prevails in almost every European country but our own; we must provide, for our industrial population, facilities for instruction in science and the arts, with special relation to the work in which they are engaged; and we must do it without loss of time. When the foundation-stone of the new museums shall be laid, we shall have realised the first practical benefits of the Great Exhibition.

Already we have realised the first practical results of the exhibition extraordinary in the Frail W. B. case. It used to be a saying of Sydney Smith, that it required but the name of a notorious jobber to be uttered in the house of commons to get a host of vouchers on the spot for his faultless moral integrity. In exactly this spirit a select committee of that house has just reported that an elaborately organised system of very gross bribery was going on at the last Derby election; that the man caught by the police in the very fact of administering the bribes was acting on the instructions contained in a letter from Major Beresford, found upon his person at the time; but that, nevertheless, there is not sufficient evidence to satisfy their minds that the scheme of the bribery, or the arrangement and object of the instructions contained in his own letter, were known to, and concurred in, by the Right Honourable William Beresford. The equivocal circumstances confessed, the obvious inference is denied; and the committee are fain to believe that the "good and safe man," whom Mr. Beresford wanted, and of whom he was so extremely anxious to conceal the whence he came and the whither he was going, he thought in his innocence to be only wanted for the purpose of circumventing underhand practices on the part of his opponents. The only parallel to a suggestion so extraordinary that strikes one at the moment, is the fact of Parson Adams being found in Mrs. Slipslop's bedchamber without any but the most virtuous intentions. So he said on the discovery taking place, and such turned out to be the fact. No one dreams of doubting the good Abraham's word on that point; and in the exact proportion of the likeness of the Right Honourable William Beresford to Parson Abraham

Adams will it be felt that the suggestion of the committee on the Derby election case is a just and reasonable one.

The events which from time to time now break the despotical dullness of the continent are not of a kind to excite wonder, however extravagant they may be. In the presence of the marvel of the French Empire all other marvels are eclipsed; and men only wonder that they can wonder no more. There has been a *coup d'état* in Spain, but nobody attends to it; though the fact that it is the civil power that attempted, and the military that successfully resisted it, may be found hereafter to be really worth attention. The king of Prussia has had a visit, for the first time since the Great Frederic arose, from his imperial neighbour of Austria; and, though this is supposed to argue a more cordial union than heretofore against the designs of a more dangerous neighbour, it passes with little remark. Nicholas remains quiet, but is supposed not to favour with any particular cordiality the pretensions of the third Napoleon. The third Napoleon himself, worse off than ever for advisers and never so sorely needing them, has tried in vain to get assistance from the Republican party; but the Cavaignacs continue as hostile and unmanageable as the Changarniers. Everything on the continent, in short, portends that things cannot long remain as they are, yet no one seems to have any great interest or anxiety to speculate on the new forms and combinations they are likely to assume.

NARRATIVE OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICS.

ON Thursday, Dec. 2, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE laid before the house the resolution on the *Commercial Policy of the Country* which he had intended to move, but which he wished to waive in favour of one suggested by Lord Derby.—The Earl of DERBY expressed his satisfaction of the course pursued by Lord Clanricarde, and cordially hoped that from that moment the controversy as to the relative merits of protection or free-trade might be set at rest, and that no attempt might be made to disturb the system recently adopted.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE then adopted Lord Derby's resolution, and gave notice that he would bring it forward on Monday next; adding that, under the circumstances, he did not think it likely any discussion would arise on his motion. The following are the terms of the resolution:—

"That this house, thankfully acknowledging the general prosperity, and deeply sensible of the evils attending frequent changes in the financial policy of the country, adheres to the commercial system recently established, and would view with regret any attempt to disturb its operations or impede its progress."

On Monday, the 6th, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved the resolution on the *Commercial Policy of the Country* which he had adopted at the suggestion of Lord Derby. He thought that some such resolution was necessary, partly from the peculiar position in which the house was placed after what had taken place in the lower house, and partly because, apart from other considerations, it was desirable that their lordships should express an opinion on the policy of free-trade. For himself, he should have been better pleased if the government would have come to the same resolution as that adopted by the House of Commons; and he could not at all understand why that course had not been followed; but, as an unanimous vote was not to be expected in that case, he had thought it right to accept the present resolution as the best that was to be obtained under all the circumstances.—The Earl of ABERDEEN thought that in a body so constituted as the House of Lords, which was not liable to change like the House of Commons, and which had already on several occasions expressed its adhesion to a free-trade policy, any such

resolution was uncalled-for and unnecessary. That house could come to no resolution of the slightest practical importance on the question, which had been irrevocably decided by the will of the nation.—Lord BEAUMONT was of opinion that the best course would be at once to adopt the resolution of the House of Commons, and he, therefore, moved that resolution as an amendment to Lord Clanricarde's motion.—The Earl of DERBY said that he felt it his duty to offer some explanation as to Lord Clanricarde's resolution. It had been suggested by himself, and adopted by the noble marquis after consultation with his friends, as likely to attain a very important object—an unanimous opinion of the house on our commercial policy. On that understanding, he had informed his friends that their attendance would be unnecessary, and it was, therefore, with the utmost surprise that he learned that not only was a discussion to take place, but a hostile amendment was also to be proposed. It had been said that the resolution gave no assurance of the intentions entertained by members of the government, but such an assurance was to be found, as had been promised, in the financial statement of the government, which was eminently of a free-trade character. Such a budget was a far more practical proof of sincerity than any abstract motion, and, after such a proof, it was ungenerous to cavil at a resolution expressly framed to secure the adhesion of the greatest number of peers without doing violence to their feelings. Lord Derby concluded by an appeal to the house not to fetter noble lords who supported the government by forcing on them resolutions which they could not conscientiously adopt.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE declared that he felt himself bound by the understanding to which Lord Derby had alluded, and he was therefore precluded from voting for the amendment.—The Earl of HARROWBY suggested the omission of all the first part of the motion which gave reasons for the course pursued by the house, and thought there could then be no doubt of an unanimous vote on the subject.—The Duke of NEWCASTLE seconded this proposition, which ultimately was unanimously carried.

The Earl of MALMESBURY announced the *Recognition of the French Empire by the British Government*; and commented on the circumstances which (he alleged) showed that the Emperor had been called to the throne by the distinct will of the people of France. Viscount CANNING observed that, in the English parliament, whenever foreign matters were brought under discussion, it was advisable—and, above all, in the case of a minister of the crown—to abstain from anything approaching to comment on the conduct of a neighbouring country, whether it were the people or the ruling authority.

On Tuesday, the 7th, the Duke of NEWCASTLE presented a *Petition from New Zealand*, complaining of the general management of that colony, and especially that the province of New Ulster should be saddled with a debt said to be owing to the New Zealand Company.

LORD LYNCHURST called the attention of the house to several passages in the *Report of the Cambridge University Commission*, and said that they contained the best answer to the accusations so often and so ignorantly made against that university.

On Friday, the 10th, the Earl of DERBY stated, in answer to a question from the Earl of ROSEN, that her Majesty's government had no desire to give any countenance whatever to the *Irish Landlord and Tenant Bill* introduced into the other house by Mr. Serjeant Shee, as they considered it subversive of the rights of property; but they had consented to refer it to a select committee, along with the measures introduced by the Attorney-General for Ireland, only for the purpose of considering a most important question, one involving great details and difficulties, which, if brought to a satisfactory issue, would confer important benefits upon the landed interest in Ireland. The assent to the second reading of Mr. Serjeant Shee's bill did not, under the circumstances, involve an admission of its principle.

No proceedings of importance took place in the house till Friday, the 17th, when the Earl of MALMESBURY intimated that in consequence of what had taken place in

the House of Commons, the preceding night with respect to the resolutions moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in consequence of the unavoidable absence of the Prime Minister, who had gone to see her Majesty at Osborne, he should move the adjournment of the house until Monday next. The house accordingly adjourned.

On Monday, the 20th, the Earl of DERBY explained the circumstances which had led to the *Resignation of the Government*, which he declared had fallen before an unprincipled combination of the parties in the lower house, who had leagued themselves together for the destruction of the ministry from the first moment of the session. The task of constructing a new government had been confided by her Majesty to Lord Aberdeen, to whom he could promise from the Conservative party greater forbearance than it had received at his, Lord Aberdeen's hands. The noble earl, in conclusion, stated that the late ministry only held office till their successors were appointed, and moved that the house adjourn to Thursday next—a day which he selected in preference to Monday next, the day suggested by Lord Aberdeen, because he hoped that by that day the necessary arrangements with regard to the new ministry might be completed.—The Duke of NEWCASTLE denied the statement of Lord Derby, that there had been a combined endeavour of various parties in the lower house to overthrow his government. On the contrary, there had been the most anxious desire that the government should be allowed to lay before the country the measures which he had promised. The Earl of DERBY entered into some explanations, and the house adjourned till Thursday.

On Monday the 27th the Earl of ABERDEEN rose to explain the circumstances which had induced him to undertake the task of *Forming a new Administration*, and said, though both his tastes and habits, as well as the reflection that he had arrived at the very verge of the period usually assigned to human life, might have rendered him reluctant to accept office, he had felt it his duty to obey the commands of the Queen. He had been accused, indeed, of entering into a conspiracy to overthrow the late government, but he could only say that his efforts had been directed towards keeping it in, and not towards its destruction; and so far was he from conspiring against the Earl of Derby and his colleagues, that he had actually made arrangements for passing the remainder of the winter on the shores of the Mediterranean. Circumstances, however, had induced Her Majesty to request his advice in forming an administration, and the cabinet being now complete, he would proceed to lay before the house a sketch of its policy. With regard to foreign powers, it would adhere to the principle which had been pursued for the last thirty years, and which consisted in respecting the rights of all independent states, in abstaining from interference in their internal affairs, while at the same time we asserted our own rights and interests, and, above all, in an earnest desire to secure the general peace of Europe. This policy might be observed without any relaxation of those defensive measures which had been lately undertaken, and had, perhaps, been too long neglected. At home the mission of the government would be to maintain and extend free trade principles, and to pursue the commercial and financial system of the late Sir Robert Peel. A crisis in our financial arrangements would speedily occur by the cessation of a large branch of the revenue, and it would tax the ingenuity of all concerned to readjust our finances according to the principles of justice and equity. The questions of education and legal reform would receive every attention at the hands of the government; nor would an amendment of the representative system, undertaken without haste or rashness, be excluded from its mature consideration. The Earl of Derby, he was informed, had spoken of a Conservative form of government, and wondered how he (Lord Aberdeen) and his associates would be able to carry on the service of the Crown; but the truth was, no government was possible at present except it were Conservative, nor was any government possible except it were Liberal. Those terms had ceased to have any definite meaning, except as party cries, and the country

was sick of them. The measures, therefore, of the government would be Conservative as well as Liberal; for both were essentially necessary. The noble earl, too, had spoken of the spread of democratic principles, but he looked in vain for any indication of such a state of things; on the contrary, the country at large was never more tranquil or contented, and though there might be speculative democrats among us, those were not the men who subverted states. Finally, the noble earl expressed his regret at the spirit of hostility in which Lord Derby had spoken of the new government, and concluded by moving the adjournment of the house to Friday, the 10th of February.

The Earl of DERBY said there was so little to complain of in the programme which the house had just heard, that he should have abstained from any remarks had it not been said that he had accused the noble earl and his colleagues of entering into a conspiracy against the late government. Now, he denied that he had ever used the word "conspiracy," though he might have said "combination;" and if, after the negotiations which had confessedly taken place between three totally different parties in the lower house, the concert which had been arrived at among them did not constitute a combination against the government, he was at a loss to understand the meaning of the word. With respect to the financial measures of the new government, he was glad to hear that some of the noble earl's supporters in the lower house had already modified their extreme opinions, and that a readjustment of that tax on equitable principles would be attempted. The intentions of Lord Aberdeen on education and legal reform were undoubtedly satisfactory, though his views on the amendment of the representation were of oracular ambiguity. The noble earl had ridiculed the notion of a dangerous democracy, but it remained to be seen whether an alteration of the existing representative system might not throw too great power into the hands of a lower and less informed class of the community. Personally, he had no feeling of hostility against the new government, but he had no great confidence in it, for he had no conception of the principle on which it was based. If, however, the noble earl conducted his administration on a truly Conservative policy, he should receive no evidence of public hostility.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Friday, the 26th of November, the adjourned debate on Mr. Villiers's resolution in favour of Free Trade, was resumed by Mr. MILNER GIBSON, who denied that this was a question of want of confidence, the government being entirely separated from it. The house should take care not to place free trade on a basis which might slide from under it. The fact that food was cheap might not always be a fact; but the question rested upon the right that men had to free exchange. He complained of Lord Palmerston's conduct in taking the question out of Mr. Villiers's hand.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT supported Lord Palmerston's amendment, as being the more generous course.—The Marquis of GRANBY's reasons for not adopting either one of the resolutions were threefold. He did not believe that the prosperity of the country was as great as it ought to be; he did not believe it was attributable to recent legislation and unrestricted competition; and even if it were, he believed that such legislation was not stamped with the principles of unrestricted competition.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM, after some observations on the inconsistency of ministers, said that he had endeavoured to frame his resolution in the temper and spirit which Sir R. Peel would, had he been alive, have displayed, and with that Christian forbearance for which the departed statesman was so remarkable. He was not surprised that, on the whole, gentlemen opposite were disposed to reject a declaration, that a policy against which they had so long struggled was wise and just. He was as earnestly opposed to any idea of compensation, and should resist it as strenuously as any member in that house. But, painful as it was to him to vote against Mr. Villiers, he should feel it his duty to support Lord Palmerston's amendment.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that he hoped the debate would be

brought to a close that night. Commenting on the course pursued by the government, he observed that Lord Derby seemed to have misconceived the constitutional position of himself as regarded the question of free trade, and also that of his subordinates, who had taken opposite sides at the elections. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had been a faithless supporter of protection; it was for the house to take care that he was not so faithless to free trade. He had no confidence in the professions of the ministry, or in the conversion of many of their supporters. The battle was not over.—Mr. WALPOLE replied to Lord John Russell, and defended the government.—Mr. CORDEN animadverted with some severity upon the course taken by Lord Palmerston, who, he said, had pressed his amendment into the service of a protectionist government, and, if the result should be unfavourable to free trade, the country would understand that the noble lord was the author of the disaster. By this intervention he had given the protectionist party a chance of indemnity. By refusing to adopt the word "just," and by omitting the word "property," in his amendment, he had opened the door to compensation. Mr. Cobden then pointed out the calamities which, he contended, had been the effects of the corn-law system, expressed his astonishment that there should be any hesitation in branding that system as unwise and unjust; and, in strong terms, inveighed against the conduct of the protectionist party. The division, he observed, would be between those who should vote for free trade, barring compensation, and those who should vote for free trade, leaving compensation alone.—Mr. BUTT said he should neither support the resolution nor the amendment. He should oppose any resolution that would close the question of compensation.—Mr. GLADSTONE denied that the division would, as Mr. Cobden alleged, determine the question of compensation. It was impossible to say that collateral claims for relief, aye for compensation, might not arise, which it would be irrational to resist. The amendment pledged the house to adopt free trade as a system. The difference between that and the original motion was, that those who voted for the latter said that the house must travel back to 1846, and revive the circumstances which then existed, for the purpose of preventing the united and overpowering expression of opinion in favour of free trade. He warned Mr. Villiers that, by pressing his motion, he was taking a step and adopting a form of language without parliamentary precedent. In adopting the amendment, he felt that his course was that which would have been pursued by Sir R. Peel, to whose motives in the policy which had cost him so many painful sacrifices, Mr. Gladstone paid a warm tribute of praise.—Mr. NEWDEGATE spoke shortly in vindication of his political conduct.—Mr. VILLIERS replied. On a division his resolution was negatived by 336 against 256; and Lord Palmerston's amendment was carried by 468 against 53.

On Monday, Nov. 29, Sir A. COCKBURN called the attention of the house to a *Petition of householders of Derby against the return of Mr. Horsfall, on the ground of bribery*, and, after stating the circumstances of the case, moved for the appointment of a select committee on the subject.—Mr. WALPOLE, on the part of the government, assented to the motion, and it was agreed that a committee, consisting of five members, should be nominated by the general election committee. And—

On Wednesday, December 1, the general committee reported that they had selected Mr. Goulburn, Lord II. Vane, Lord Barrington, Sir W. Molesworth, and Mr. Deedes, to be the members of the above committee.

On Monday, December 6th, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that government had received information of a change in the form of the government of France, and that an emperor had been proclaimed under the title of "Napoleon III.;" and her Majesty's ministers, acting upon the principle of recognising every *de facto* government, had advised her Majesty to recognise the new form of Government in France. At the same time it had been announced to her Majesty's government in a friendly and unofficial manner, and formally and officially, that, in accepting the title of "Napoleon III.," the Emperor of France did not in any

way wish to assert an hereditary claim; on the contrary, that his only claim was his having been elected by the people of France; and he voluntarily declared that he entirely accepted all the acts of the governments that had taken place from 1814.

In a committee of supply, Mr. STAFFORD, after briefly sketching the government plan for increasing our *Channel Defences*, moved a vote for 6500 additional men, including 1500 marines; and Mr. DENNE moved a vote of 2000 additional men for the artillery. Both votes were agreed to.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved a vote of 150,000*l.* towards the *Purchase of Land for a National Gallery and Museum* connected with science and the arts in aid of the fund in the hands of the royal commissioners of the Great Exhibition. After some conversation the vote was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL introduced a bill for *Defining the Law Affecting such Publications as 'The Household Narrative,' and for declaring that such works are not newspapers.*

On Tuesday, Dec. 7th, Mr. TUFFNELL moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the expediency of distributing, gratuitously, a selection from the reports and returns printed by order of the house among the *Literary and Scientific Institutions and Mechanics' Institutes* throughout the United Kingdom. He pointed out the advantages which would result from such distribution, and reminded the house that all he now desired was inquiry. No opposition was made by government and the motion was agreed to.

The second reading of the *Irish Tenants Compensation Bill* having been moved by Mr. NAPEL, Mr. Serjeant SHEE objected to the measure at great length; contending that it did not deal fairly with the tenants, and would stop for ever all claims under the Ulster or any other custom. The forms and complicated arrangements required by the bill would throw insuperable obstacles in the way of all improvements. In conclusion, he proposed that this bill and that which he had brought in, should both be referred to a select committee. After a rambling discussion, it was ultimately agreed that all the bills connected with the subject—the Tenant's Compensation, the Land Improvement, the Leasing Powers, the Landlord and Tenant, and the Tenant Right Bills—should be referred to a select committee.

On Thursday, December 9th, Mr. J. WILSON, moved for certain papers connected with the state of the *British Sugar Colonies*.—Sir J. PAKINGTON assented to the motion, and it was agreed to.

On Friday, Dec. 10, in a committee of supply, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his *Financial Statement*. He claimed the indulgence of the house, on account of the unusual circumstances of difficulty in which he was placed, and the fact that the present financial year was only two parts concluded. Unlimited competition being established as the commercial system of the country, it was his object to adapt the financial system to this new state of things. And this led to the consideration of the claims of those who believed themselves to have received particular injury from recent legislation. Those different interests were—the shipping interest, the sugar-producing interest, and the agricultural interest. The shipping interest believed themselves to be labouring under injuries caused by the repeal of the navigation laws, and, after attentive investigation, their claims seemed to be founded upon truth. For their relief the government proposed to abolish all light dues, except those actually for the maintenance of the lighthouses themselves; to entrust the complicated questions of pilotage and ballasting to a committee of the house, with a view to their reform; and, with regard to various grievances, which he classified as Admiralty grievances, and in which he included the privilege of enlistment in the navy by merchant seamen, salvage, and anchorage—it was proposed by the government, with the co-operation of the Admiralty, to modify or abolish them to an extent which would give the merchant service additional privileges. With regard to the claims of the sugar interest, the government did not see any ground for entertaining them, with the exception of the request to admit sugar to be refined in $\frac{1}{2}$ bond for home consumption—which the government

proposed to concede, subject to certain conditions. The next subject related to the general taxation of the country. There was a body of taxation composed of three rates—the highway-rate, the county-rate, and the poor-rate. With regard to the first, the government intended to propose a bill which he believed would receive the confidence of the house and the country. With regard to the county-rate, he might say that there was not the slightest objection on the part of the government to the introduction of the representative principle into its adjustment; but, nevertheless, the government was not at present prepared to recommend any change. He next came to the poor-rate, and described the progress of its diminution since 1848, amounting to nearly twenty-five per cent. Considering this fact, and the various circumstances bearing on the question, he did not feel it necessary to make any change in this law, or in local taxation generally. He now came to the subject of the general taxation of the country, under a system of unlimited competition. It was the boast of hon. members on the other side of the house that they had given cheap bread to the country. But to carry out their principles, they must cheapen every other article of consumption; and in carrying out their principles they could not fail to benefit every class and give particular relief to those classes who had suffered from the system which they had introduced. The house would not be surprised, therefore, when he stated that he proposed to reduce the malt-tax by one-half, and to abolish altogether the drawback on malt in Scotland—the system to come into operation on the 10th of October next. He now arrived at another article on which he proposed a reduction—tea. Since the period when Mr. POCYS first enjoyed the "new China drink," tea had every year been imported into this country in larger quantities, and at a reduced price, until 1851, when no less than 71,466,000*lb.* were imported; and the last reduction of duties had tended to give a great impetus to this increase. The extent of reduction which he proposed was 1*s.* 4*d.* per pound, which would leave only 1*s.* per pound remaining—the reduction to be effected gradually during a period of six years. In cheapening another important beverage of the people, they had to consider another duty—that was, the duty on hops. He was not going to remove the entire duty on this article—something must be left for future statesmen. What he proposed was, to take off the tax of 1*d.* per pound, which had been laid on during the war. Reflecting upon the policy of these measures, the right hon. gentleman combated the notion which was entertained in some quarters that the consuming power of the people was on the decline. The supposition was induced by the large amount of emigration; and it was true that there were more persons going out of the country than were counterbalanced by the excess of births over deaths in England and Wales. But it should be taken into consideration that the calculations of births and deaths were confined to England and Wales, while the emigration calculation had reference to the extent of about two-thirds of Ireland. Under these circumstances, he could not but consider emigration as a most beneficial symptom. Another great cause of the prosperity of the country was the discovery of the gold regions, which might have the effect of raising it to a height which had never before been attained. Under all these circumstances, he could not consider that the consuming power of the people was on the decline. The loss to the revenue by the reductions would amount to between three and four millions sterling. Then they would remember that one of the principal sources of the revenue would soon terminate—he alluded to the property and income-tax. He recommended to the house the extension of that tax to funded property and salaries in Ireland; and, with respect to its general operation, he wished to introduce a new principle, which was to acknowledge a difference between permanent and precarious incomes; and to recommend that on all industrial incomes the exemption should commence at 100*l.* a-year, and on incomes arising from property at 50*l.* a-year. After explaining the details of the proposed plan by which the tax on property would remain at 7*d.* in the pound, whilst that on income was to fall to 5*d.* in the pound, he added that

the general result would be that the tax on the new basis would yield about the same amount as the average of the last three years under the present system. He had now to propose the ways and means by which the diminution in the revenue would be met. He should be obliged to make a considerable increase in the estimates, especially in those necessary for the defence of the country, for which the government had a great and comprehensive scheme to propose. He should be obliged to ask that the expenditure of the present year should be supplied through the ways and means; and for the next year he should make an estimate which would exceed the usual estimate by 600,000*l*. And he considered himself justified in proposing this expenditure when he stated (after going through the various items) that the surplus which he expected on the 5th of April would amount to about a million and a half. He proposed the abolition of the loan-fund commission—a useless and expensive body, and from their repayments he expected to gain a large sum to the country. The increased expenses, however, joined to the large reductions would (as he showed by minute calculations) leave a considerable deficit; and to meet this he proposed an extension of the house-tax, bringing to bear upon it the same principle which he proposed to apply to the income-tax—to avoid exemptions as much as possible. He recommended that the present tax should be made to extend to houses of 10*l*. a-year, and that the rate should be increased to 1*s*. 6*d*. in the pound for private houses, and 1*s*. for shops. This would yield 1,723,000*l*. By this means he calculated that for the financial year 1853-4 there would be 2,500,000*l*. in hand to meet an extra expense of 2,100,000*l*. That for the financial year 1854-5, allowing for all losses in respect to diminutions of duties, the surplus from the previous year and the house-tax, which would then be in full operation, he would have in hand 3,510,000*l*. Thus he came to the conclusion that the surplus the first year would be 400,000*l*, and that of the second year something under 500,000*l*, which he considered a healthy state of the finances, promising happiness and prosperity to the country. Mr. Disraeli concluded a speech of above five hours by making the formal motion for a grant to pay outstanding Exchequer Bills. After some desultory observations from various members, the formal motion was agreed to, and the house adjourned, it being understood that the resolutions should be laid on the table on Monday, and the sense of the house taken upon them on the Friday following.

On Friday, Dec. 10th, on the motion that the house go into a committee of ways and means on the *Budget*, Mr. Thomas DUNCOMBE said he disapproved of the whole scheme, and intimated that if any member would support him, he would divide the house against the motion, expressly as a vote of no confidence.—Mr. Walter immediately signified that he would be happy to divide with him, not on the ground of “no confidence,” but to give the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he were resolved on suicide, a little time to repent.—Sir Bulwer LYTTON said that the house should consider how far it was desirable to destroy the present government, that had recognised the principle that it was unjust to impose the same taxation upon the income of a man who, without fault of his own, might lose it to-morrow, and upon the income of a man who might bequeath it to his children. He advocated the proposed reduction of the malt tax, stating that it would reduce the price of superior beer a penny a quart, and describing the question as one of free trade against restriction. Defending the principle of the house-tax and its contemplated extension to the most important part of our constituency, urging the freetraders to treat the agriculturists kindly, as they deserve to be treated, and explaining his own reasons for tendering his service to Lord Derby’s government, which he believed to be earnest in promoting large reforms, he gave his cordial support to the Ministry. After some remarks from Mr. Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. T. Duncombe, Lord John Russell, Mr. Osborne, and Mr. Hume, the house went into committee; and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved the resolutions *Doubling and Extending the Duty on Inhabited Houses*.—An amendment by Mr. William

WILLIAMS, to substitute the extension of the legacy and probate duties to real property, instead of the house-tax, was moved; but after a short discussion, withdrawn.—After some comments from Mr. Pihnn, Mr. Bail, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Mr. H. Drummond, and others, Sir Charles Wood entered into an analysis of the whole budget. Approving of the concession to shipping and sugar, he showed that the light-duties remitted, equally to foreign ships with British, could have no effect in enabling the British to compete with foreign rivals, as a reduction of the timber-duties might have done; and in Mr. Disraeli’s rejection of those West Indian “claims” which he had so long advocated, Sir Charles saw an end to the delusive talk of assistance for “suffering interests.” The reduction of the malt and hop duties he criticised at much length; adding new arguments to those which he repeated after other speakers. Of all lands, barley lands, whose crop and live stock (sheep) pay best, least require relief; while the remission of the malt-duty will be intercepted by the maltster and brewer. He made much of the unpopular character of the extension of the income-tax to persons in humble circumstances, upon whom the taxgather has never yet called; and the extension of the house-duty to farmers’ houses—one of the “benefits” they conferred on the farmer! Practically, the house-duty would lead to extensive disfranchisement of electors. The Public Works Loan Fund consists of money originally borrowed to be lent out again, with accumulations of interest; it has been very useful in aiding local works, such as county lunatic asylums: now if it were to be discontinued, evidently the debt ought to be extinguished; but who ever heard that it could be considered as annual revenue? Yet Mr. Disraeli proposed to use it in making up a fictitious surplus! It was malapropriation. Sir Charles examined the balancing of the figures, and convicted the budget of a deficiency—by the reduction of two chief indirect taxes, and notwithstanding the increase of the two chief direct taxes, in one year. As to the “consequences” of rejecting the budget, Sir Charles saw no consequences except an amended budget. Let ministers take the Christmas holidays to think of it. The debate was then adjourned till Monday.

On Monday, the 13th, the adjourned debate on the *Budget* was resumed.—Mr. COBDEN, protesting against any attempt to infuse compensatory ingredients into the budget, and deprecating the revival of an antagonism between town and country, denounced the addition to the house-tax as unjust and partial, since it increased, he said, the existing disproportion of taxation upon houses and upon land. This tax, moreover, fell upon owners as well as occupiers. Its avowed object was to remove half the malt duty. If the whole of that duty could be repealed, he would advocate its remission; but his objection to the removal of only half was—first, on principle, and because it did not get rid of the excise restrictions; secondly, on account of the manner in which the deficiency was to be made up. It was an open question, he added, whether an increase of the consumption of beer would be beneficial to the people, who were indifferent in the matter. As to the modification of the income-tax, he was bound to give the government credit for what they had done in this way; but here again an undue favour was shown to the land. In short, this budget, which did not correspond with the magniloquent speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, could not stand. Mr. Cobden took a rapid glance at some of the vices of our system of collecting the indirect taxes, many of which, he said, must be repealed, and the country must make up its mind to a fair system of direct taxation.—Lord J. MANNERS supported the budget.—Mr. RICH opposed it. The budget, he said, was compulsory and penal, at once unjust and dangerous, which unsettled a vast amount of taxation merely to fulfil a vain expectation recklessly held out.—Mr. LOWE objected chiefly to the reduction of the malt-tax, in the price of barley, which was not probable. The tax formed a very large portion of the revenue; it was paid with less discontent than any other portion; and what was to be got in exchange for the moiety remitted? If the beer trade was under free competition, east, as in other trades, would regulate price; but there was not in the country so iron a monopoly as that of the brewers, and

the notion that the remission would materially lower the price of beer was a delusion. The only way to secure a benefit to the consumer was to break up the brewers' monopoly; but that could not be done in any other mode than by abolishing the system of licences; and then much might be done towards obtaining cheap beer. If, then, there was to be no decrease in the price of malt liquor, there would be no increase in the consumption; and if so, no benefit would accrue to the growers of barley, who would have, moreover, to compete with the manufacturers of foreign malt.—Mr. BASS defended the brewers from the charge of monopoly, and strongly recommended the total remission of the malt-tax.—Mr. WALFOLE supported the budget.—Mr. GOULBURN opposed it, contending that the finances were not in a state in which we could afford to part with 2,500,000*l.* of taxation the least oppressive to the country, at the risk of creating a deficiency.

On Tuesday, the 14th, the debate was continued. Before the house went into committee the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER urged the inconvenience of protracting the debate, observing that he did not desire to pledge the house beyond affirming the principle that the area of direct taxation should be extended.—In committee, Lord JOCELYN supported the budget. He looked upon it with satisfaction, because he found in it no attempt to subvert the policy which parliament had affirmed, but, on the contrary, a fair acceptance of that policy.—Mr. OSBORNE gave the Chancellor of the Exchequer credit for two main features of his budget, the relief to the shipping interest, and the sagacious and statesmanlike view he had taken of the tea duty. As a whole, however, the measure was far from tending to reconcile conflicting interests. He condemned the house-tax; the plan of the government with respect to this tax, he maintained, was nothing more than a contrivance to compensate the agricultural interest by throwing an additional burden upon the middle classes. The reduction of the malt-tax he denied to be a consumers' question, since the price of beer would not be materially affected; still less would it benefit the agricultural interest generally, as he well knew, being a barley grower.—Mr. Alderman THOMPSON characterised the budget as a bold, wise, and statesmanlike measure, which deserved the confidence of the country.—Mr. HUME thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer, by his statement that evening, had altered the question at issue. In his opinion no case had been made out for any additional tax whatever, there being a surplus revenue. He thought Mr. Disraeli had dealt fairly with the shipping interest; he suggested the course he should pursue towards the colonies, and with regard to the agricultural interest, neither producers nor consumers could be benefited by dealing with the malt-tax unless it were abolished altogether. But there were 233 articles remaining in the tariff on which protecting duties were still collected, yielding only 131,000*l.*, the removal of any one of which would benefit somebody. Mr. Hume then referred to the resolutions he had put upon the paper on the subject of the income-tax, expatiated upon the advantages incident to the substitution for the customs and excise of a system of direct taxation which would attach to all property, and strongly condemned the house duty, one of the worst of taxes, he said, being a tax upon domestic comforts, most unjust in its nature and unequal in its operation.—Sir J. GRAHAM, after some remarks upon the speculations of Mr. Hume, observed that the issue before the committee had been, "Shall we or not, for the purpose of the budget, consent to a change in the house-tax, by doubling its amount and reducing the exemptions?" He asked whether this issue had been changed, and whether the question was merely as to the area of the direct tax?—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied, that he had said, in answer to a question, that he had no objection to narrow the issue, and he found nothing in the resolution before the committee as to the amount of the rate on houses; it contained merely the principle—namely, that the area of the tax should be extended.—Sir J. GRAHAM observed that up to that moment the whole budget had been debated, and the government had staked their existence upon the resolution; nor was it possible to narrow the issue, the deci-

sion of which might create a deficit of revenue. He proceeded, therefore, to discuss the whole financial scheme, reviewing the principles upon which it was constructed, and the manner in which the three interests alleged to have been injured by recent legislation were dealt with. He then examined the prospective views announced by the government, observing that, stripped of the repeal of half the malt-tax and the increase of the house-tax, the budget was of an ordinary character. With respect to the former, he had invariably opposed a remission of any part of that tax, and he assigned various reasons why such remission would be of little or no advantage to consumers or producers. Sir James next insisted upon the inexpediency of interfering with the operation of the Exchequer loan fund, which was of great local importance, and asked why the Chancellor of the Exchequer laid his hands upon a part of this useful fund to supply a deficiency he would himself create by tampering with the taxation of the country. The views of Mr. Disraeli upon the subject of direct taxation, he remarked, were incongruous. He had laid it down at one time that direct taxation with large exemptions was confiscation; and at another, that without large exemptions, it was impossible. Sir James exemplified the manner in which the income tax as introduced into Ireland, and the increased house-tax in England, conflicted with these maxims, and he showed how unequally the proposed scheme of distinguishing between realised and precarious incomes would work in both countries. Upon the question of the relative merits of indirect and direct taxation, he held that their admixture was the sound legislative policy; but that admixture required great caution, and the proportions must be most carefully regulated. With reference to this point, he cited the opinions of Lord Derby and of Sir R. Peel, who declared that, except for a special and temporary purpose, direct taxation could not, in his opinion, be carried to a much greater extent than it had reached already.—Sir J. PARKINGTON, in reply to Sir J. Graham, denied that the government were seeking to evade the main question of the budget; and proceeded to defend the measure from the various objections made to it.—Lord J. RUSSELL wished to know upon what proposition the government wished to take the opinion of the house—whether it was the doubling of the house-tax, or merely extending the area of taxation?—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he wished the vote to be taken on the first resolution, which he would consider as a decision upon the whole budget.—After some conversation the debate was adjourned to Thursday.

On Wednesday, the 15th, the debate on *Irish Tenants' Compensation Bill* was concluded. The bill was read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

On Thursday, the 16th, Mr. GOULBURN brought up the report of the select committee upon the alleged *Bribery at Derby*, which was to the following purport:—

"The select committee appointed to take into consideration the petition of certain inhabitant householders of the borough of Derby, of the 2nd of November last, have to report to your Hon. House:—That your committee have examined witnesses, and have heard counsel in support of the petition, as well as on behalf of the Right Hon. William Beresford, Secretary at War, and a member of this house. Your committee have to report, with reference to the specific allegations contained in the petition before them, that the evidence has satisfied them that a plan for an organised system of bribery existed in the borough of Derby at the last election. That the Right Hon. William Beresford wrote a letter to one John Frial, of Shrewsbury, in the following terms:—

"A good and safe man, with judgment and quickness, is wanted immediately at Derby. I suppose that you cannot leave your own place; if not, send some one whom you can trust in your place. Let him go to Derby on receiving this, and find the County Tavern, in the centre of the town. Send his card to Cox, Brothers, & Co., Leadworks, as coming from Chester. That will be enough."

"Monday."

"W. B."

"That in consequence of such letter one Thomas

Morgan, jun., was sent to Derby by the said John Frail, and, acting on the instructions therein contained, was subsequently detected and apprehended in Derby, while engaged in carrying out the plan of the organised system of bribery proved before your committee to have existed. Your committee do not think there is sufficient evidence to satisfy their minds that the arrangement, scheme, and object referred to in the petition were known to and concurred in by the Right Hon. W. Beresford; but your committee are of opinion that the equivocal expressions of that letter ought at least to have suggested to him an idea of the improper use to which that letter might have been, and in fact was, applied. And they think it exhibited a reckless indifference and disregard of consequences which they cannot too highly censure."

On the motion of Mr. Goulburn, the evidence taken before the committee was ordered to be printed.

The adjourned debate on the *Budget* was then resumed and concluded.—Sir A. COCKBURN was opposed to all parts of the budget, except the reduction of the tea duties and the graduation of the income-tax, which he warmly commended.—Mr. Whiteside, Lord Drumlanrig, Mr. G. H. Moore, Mr. Peacock, and Sir F. Baring spoke in opposition to the government.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied at great length. He first addressed himself to the subject of the Exchequer Loan Fund, of which he had taken 400,000*l.* as ways and means of the year. He explained the origin of this establishment (which he proposed to abolish), and observed that, when his attention was drawn to this fund, he found in this department a balance of upwards of 380,000*l.* lying idle, a law being in existence peremptorily requiring that this unproductive balance should be increased every quarter; and he stated cases in which, he said, the minister of the day had availed himself of this public fund, virtually without the cognisance of parliament, and sums had been squandered which had escaped the vigilance of even Mr. Hume. 250,000*l.* had been lent to the Thames Tunnel, of which not a shilling had been repaid. Battersea Park, one of the most woful of speculations, had had an advance of 150,000*l.* He had a catalogue of parallel instances, from 1824 to 1850, in which a sum very little short of 700,000*l.* had been advanced—not, as Sir J. Graham alleged, to country gentlemen—every shilling of which had been lost to the country. He had been asked why he had touched this fund. He replied, to relieve the Consolidated Fund from this annual charge, and to put a stop to a machinery which wasted the public money. The manner in which he had made the 400,000*l.* act upon the reduction of the public debt, Mr. Disraeli expounded to the committee, contending that the course he had pursued was in conformity with the obligations of the law, as well as with the recommendations of parliamentary committees. He then noticed the second arraignment of his financial statement by Sir C. Wood, namely, the mistake he had been supposed to make in the estimate of deficiency in 1851-52, through the semi-repeal of the malt-duty, which he showed he had properly assumed at 1,700,000*l.* Respecting the Caffre war, the statements he had made, he said, had been entirely substantiated, the last despatch of General Cathcart stating that "the war of rebellion may now be considered at an end." He replied to Mr. Goulburn's objection that no allowance had been made for the loss of revenue by refining sugar in bond, that he did not believe there would be the slightest loss. Approaching the subject of the house-tax, he ranged rapidly over those parts of our colossal system of taxation which had to be accommodated to the policy of unrestricted competition, observing that the government had to fix upon some direct tax to enable them to carry out financial reform, and he retorted with great keenness the charge of endeavouring recklessly to increase the direct taxation of the country, upon Sir C. Wood, who had proposed one day to double the income and property-tax, and next day told the house he had sufficient ways and means without it. In providing an amount of direct taxation for their purpose, the government were guided by two principles—first, as regarded the income-tax, to establish a distinction between realised and precarious incomes; and, secondly, to

enlarge the basis of direct taxation. Believing that the house-tax was a reasonable, just, and beneficial measure, and that it would supply the necessary amount of direct taxation, they had to decide upon which group of indirect taxes they should operate, and they came to the conclusion that they should act upon those articles which entered into the consumption of the people, and which were subject to the largest impost. His selection of the malt duty he defended against the varied attacks made upon it. The coalition by which the present government was opposed might, he observed, in conclusion, be successful; but it had been always found that the triumphs of coalitions were very brief; and he appealed from that coalition to the public opinion of the country.—Mr. GLADSTONE considered that the speech of Mr. D'Israeli ought to meet with an immediate reply; and he animadverted with strong emphasis on the licence of language which Mr. D'Israeli had used, and the phrases he had applied to the characters of public men. After condemning the course of proceeding adopted by the government with reference to the resolutions, he objected, he said, to the resolution before the committee, whether it was a vote for a house-tax, or a vote for the budget. He enumerated specific objections to the house-tax, for which he would not legislate until all these questions had been fully considered. He showed how severely the additional direct taxes would affect persons with small incomes, some of whom, including the clergy, would come for the first time within the sweep of the income-tax. He objected to the additional house-tax because it was connected with the repeal of half the malt-tax.—a measure which was professedly for the immediate benefit of the consumer, whereas it was a sacrifice of 2,500,000*l.* for a reduction in the price of beer, that would be scarcely appreciable, and the principle of reproduction would consequently be dormant. The imposing a tax of one kind to repeal a tax of another kind, was a most delicate operation, and which would attract the most jealous scrutiny. The question, however, which lay at the root of the whole discussion was that of the income-tax and its modifications. Nothing could satisfy the country upon this head but a plan, not an abstraction—not something seductive which they who proposed it knew could not be carried into effect. There was, however, no plan, and the House of Commons would forfeit its duty if it consented to deal in the abstract with a matter respecting which the theories were endless. Passing to the budget generally, he asserted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had introduced a new principle, subversive of all rules of prudence, by presenting a budget without a surplus, for the 400,000*l.* He insisted, in opposition to Mr. D'Israeli, was borrowed money, and no real surplus. That right hon. gentleman, he said, complained of being opposed by a coalition. He (Mr. Gladstone) wanted to know whether a minister of the Crown was entitled to make a charge against an independent member of parliament, and without any evidence. He voted against the budget not only because he disapproved on general grounds of its principles, but emphatically because it was his firm conviction that this was the most perverted budget in its tendency and ultimate effects that he had ever seen, and if the house should sanction its delusive scheme, the day would come when it would look back with bitter, and late though ineffectual repentance.

The committee then divided:—

Ayes	286
Noes	305

Majority against Ministers . . . 19

The House then adjourned till Monday following.

On Monday the 20th, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave a similar explanation of the *Resignation of Ministers* to that given by Lord Derby, in the House of Lords, and moved that the house should adjourn to Thursday, which was agreed to.

On Monday, the 27th, *New Writs* were ordered to issue for supplying fourteen vacancies caused by the acceptance of offices under the new administration.

PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

House of Lords.—Nov. 30th.—Oaths in Chancery Bill read a second time.

Dec. 2nd.—Lord Clanricarde's Free Trade Resolutions adopted by Lord Derby.

6th.—Lord Clanricarde's Resolutions withdrawn, and Lord Harrowby's Amendment carried.

9th.—Oaths in Chancery Bill read a third time and passed.

16th.—Royal Assent to the Bank Note, West India Colonies, Loans Acts Amendment, and Commons Enclosure Bills.

27th.—The Earl of Aberdeen's explanations of the circumstances which had induced him to undertake the task of forming an Administration.

House of Commons.—Nov. 29th. Irish Common Law Reform Bill read a second time.

Dec. 1st.—County Courts' Bill passed through Committee.—Derby Bribery Case, Committee named.

3rd.—The Budget, Mr. Disraeli's statement.

6th.—Committee of Supply, Supplementary Estimates voted.

—Railway Amalgamation, Committee appointed.

7th.—Supply, Report of Supplementary Estimates received.

—Irish Improvement Bills referred to a Select Committee.—

County Expenditure, Mr. Milner Gibson's Bill reintroduced and read a first time.

8th.—Sir De Lacy Evans's Rate-paying Clauses Bill thrown out on second reading.—County Polls Bill considered in Committee.—Committee of Ways and Means.

9th.—Railway Amalgamation, Committee named.—Ways and Means, resolution reported.

10th.—The Budget, Debate adjourned.—Board of Health Bill read a second time.

13th.—Budget Debate continued.

15th.—Tenants' Compensation (Ireland) Bill referred to Select Committee.

16th.—Derby Bribery Case, Report of Select Committee.—Budget Debate concluded; House Tax Resolution rejected by 305 to 286.

27th.—New Writs ordered to supply vacancies caused by acceptance of offices under the New Administration.

THE seat for Durham City, vacant by the death of Mr. T. C. Granger, has been filled by the election of Lord A. Fane, the Conservative candidate. His competitor was Mr. H. W. Fenwick, of Chester-le-Street.

Mr. Stuart, who has vacated the seat for Bury St. Edmunds by his appointment as Vice-Chancellor, has been succeeded by Mr. Oakes, the Conservative candidate, who carried the election against Mr. Harcastle, the candidate on the liberal interest.

Mr. W. J. Fox has been elected for Oldham, in preference to Mr. Heald the Conservative candidate. The election was attended with very riotous proceedings; at one time it was found necessary to read the Riot Act and call out the military, but no serious consequences ensued.

The Abingdon election was also of a riotous character. Lord Norreys, a Peelite, was the successful candidate, his opponent being Mr. Burr, an adherent of the Ministry.

Mr. Whalley has been elected for Peterborough, beating Mr. Cornewall Lewis by a small majority.

Mr. Bruce of Dylfryn, nephew of Sir James Lewis Knight Bruce, has been elected, without opposition, as the successor of Sir John Guest in the representation of Merthyr Tydvil. He is a "Conservative Free-trader."

The following are the Members of the new Government:—

First Lord of the Treasury	The Earl of Aberdeen.
Lord Chancellor	Lord Cranworth.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Gladstone.
	Home
Secretaries of State	Foreign
	Colonial
First Lord of the Admiralty	Sir James Graham.
President of the Council	Earl Grey.
Lord Privy Seal	The Duke of Argyll.
Secretary at War	Mr. Sidney Herbert.
President of the Board of Control	Sir C. Wood.
First Commissioner of Public Works	Sir W. Molesworth.

The Marquis of Lansdowne will have a seat in the Cabinet without office.

The above form the Cabinet.

President of the Board of Trade	Mr. Cardwell.
Attorney-General	Sir A. Cockburn.
Solicitor-General	Mr. Bethel.

NARRATIVE OF LAW AND CRIME.

AT the Marylebone Police Office, on the 27th ult., George Bellamy, a young man of twenty-one, was committed for *Stealing* jewelry worth 5000*l*. A girl who was arrested with him was liberated, as there was no evidence to prove her connexion with the robbery. Mrs. Goodwin of York Place, Portman Square—a very aged and infirm lady—on leaving England for the continent, deposited her jewelry in a cellar, the door of which was secured by two locks, and seals were attached. The butler was left in charge of the house. Bellamy had formerly been in the lady's service; he visited the butler, got possession of the keys, fortively opened the cellar, seized the box of jewelry, relocked the door, joined the broken seals with Chinese glue, and returned the keys to their usual place. Nothing amiss was observed, and the criminal got away from the house unsuspected. One day the butler was startled by the police informing him that the valuable property had been stolen. Bellamy, after selling some of the plunder in London, went to Dublin. There he attempted to dispose of a quantity of broken gold settings; the police were informed; and he was arrested with the remainder of the jewelry, whole or broken, in his possession. He confessed the crime and described the manner in which the robbery had been committed.

Conflicting decisions have been given on the subject of *Cabs plying within Railway Stations*. At the Marylebone Police Court on the 2nd inst., Mr. Long gave a judgment at variance with the judgment previously given by the Southwark magistrate, Mr. A'Beckett (see *Household Narrative* for last month, p. 253); a cab-driver had been summoned before the Marylebone Court for plying for hire within the Euston Square terminus. There was no doubt about the fact of the hiring. After the case had been argued at great length, Mr. Long pronounced an elaborate judgment deciding against the summons. He incidentally expressed an opinion that a change in the present system would be disadvantageous to the public. As to the law, he held that the words in the act meant plying for hire in public places, and in public places only; and that the legislature did not intend in any degree that the act should apply to or interfere with private property, which railway stations are. The summons must be dismissed, as the plying for hire in this case was not plying for hire within the meaning of the Act of Parliament. Mr. Hammill, the Worship Street Magistrate has pronounced a decision similar to that of Mr. A'Beckett, in the case of a driver plying at the Shoreditch terminus. Mr. A'Beckett, on the 7th inst. reaffirmed his previous decisions, in disposing of summonses against cabmen plying and taking fares at the Brighton and South-eastern termini. He suspends execution of the judgment for six weeks, in order that the question may be tried elsewhere.

In the Court of Queen's Bench on the 2nd inst., Lord Frankfort was tried on the charge of circulating *Libellous Letters* injurious to the character of Lord Henry Lennox. The letters bore the name of that nobleman and several other persons as the writers, and represented them as engaged in infamous designs. The indictment was for conspiracy and libel; the latter charge was held to be fully proved. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty of defamation," and the court sentenced Lord Frankfort to twelve months imprisonment in the House of Correction.

Mr. Lionel George Thompson, the shipping-agent, was finally examined at the Mansion house on the 7th inst., on a charge of conspiring to *Defraud Emigrants*. A number of persons proved the payment of passage-money for berths in the South Sea, which berths were never provided for them. It appeared from the evidence of other parties, that Thompson was authorised to dispose of berths—that is, if he transmitted the money to Liverpool for any passages, the owner would have received the emigrants on board his ship; but Thompson did not transmit the money. The firm of "Thompson Brothers" consisted of the accused alone; though his father drew checks upon the son's bankers, had formerly paid large sums to the Liverpool brokers of the ship South

Sea, and was considered by them the head of the firm. The prisoner reserved his defence. He was committed for trial.

In the Dublin Commission Court, on the 10th inst., Mr. Kirwan was found guilty of the *Murder* of his wife and sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Crampton. The evidence was circumstantial. Mr. Kirwan was an artist, living by sketching. He had been married twelve years; but the whole of that time he had been living also with another woman, by whom he had eight children. Neither of the women knew of her rival, until six months before her death. Mrs. Kirwan learned the fact. On the 6th of September, the Kirwans went to the little island called 'Ireland's Eye,' in Dublin Bay, to sketch. Kirwan had a sword-cane with him. Another party visited the island, and at four o'clock saw Mrs. Kirwan alive; the couple being then left alone on the island. At seven o'clock cries of distress on the island were heard. When the boatmen returned at eight o'clock according to their instructions, Mrs. Kirwan was missing; and after a search her body was found on a rock. The incident is thus described by one of the boatmen—"Her bathing-dress was up under her arms, and there was a sheet under her; her head was lying back in a hole, and her feet were in a pool of water about the full of my hat—about half a gallon. I saw cuts on her forehead and under her eye; there was blood coming down by her ears, from her side and breast, and other places." Kirwan told the boatmen that his wife left him to bathe at half-past six o'clock; but the continued fall of the tide proved that she could not have been drowned or carried by the water to the spot where she was found. The boatmen found her clothes in a spot which they had previously searched, after Kirwan had been a short time absent from them. The body showed marks of violence; but a Coroner's inquest found a verdict of "Accidental death;" and the body was buried in a part of Glasnevin cemetery, so wet that in two months the body was decomposed.—Since the trial, the correctness of the verdict has been questioned, and Mr. Kirwan has received a reprieve.

At the Surrey Sessions, on the 11th, the Reverend Daniel Donovan, a Roman Catholic priest of Bernoudsey, was tried for *Assaulting* Mary Murphy. The woman had been confined three weeks, and was sitting by the fire with her infant when Mr. Donovan came in. He was very angry with her. She and her husband had become Protestants; and the infant had been baptised by Dr. Armstrong, an Irish Protestant clergyman, who has converted many Roman Catholics in Bernoudsey. Mr. Donovan inquired about the infant's baptism; and then abused the woman, and struck her three times with his umbrella. Further, he incited the landlady to turn the Murphys out of the house; and the landlady subsequently took away the bed on which the woman slept. The witnesses called for the defence in some measure corroborated Mrs. Murphy's statement, though they softened it. It appeared also from Mrs. Murphy's admissions that she obtained money and other relief from Catholics as well as Protestants—Donovan had given her money. The jury convicted Mr. Donovan; but both they and the prosecutrix recommended him to mercy. On that recommendation, the sentence was not imprisonment, but a fine of 5*l*. The fine was immediately paid, amid the execrations of the mob and the dreadful howling of the women. They were in a state of such excitement that it was found necessary to send out both the priest and his accuser privately through the gaol.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 16th, Henry Horler, a young man, was convicted of the *Murder of his Wife*, by cutting her throat while she was in bed. The man's counsel could only suggest that he was not a responsible agent when he did the deed, his mind having been unhinged by injuries which he imagined he had received from his wife's relations. Sentence of death was pronounced by Mr. Justice Wightman, amidst the wretched prisoner's screams for mercy.—On the same day, Amelia Elizabeth Burt, a married woman of thirty, was tried for the *Murder of her Child*, by throwing it from Hungerford Bridge. In this case it appeared that the poor creature was of unsound mind, and she was accordingly acquitted on that ground.

At the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, on the 23rd, George Christie, an old pensioner, belonging to Aberdeen, was convicted of the *Murder* of a widow named Ross, and her grandchild, a boy about five years of age, on the 4th of October last. The old woman lived in a small cottage along with her grandchild, about a mile from Aberdeen. She kept a few cows and sold milk. It was supposed that she had a little money, and as far as the evidence went, the sole motive for the murder on the part of the accused was to possess himself of the property. The murder appears to have been committed in a very atrocious manner; no fewer than nine blows—any of which were sufficient to have caused death—having been inflicted on the woman, while the skull of the child was split open down to the nose. The prisoner was seen in the house on the night of the murder, and was afterwards apprehended with several articles, including a purse with a small sum of money, and a gold ring, belonging to the deceased. Blood was also found on his person. His guilt was quite clear, and the jury had no hesitation in convicting him. His execution is appointed to take place at Aberdeen on the 19th of January.

NARRATIVE OF ACCIDENT AND DISASTER.

Floods caused by the continued rainy weather have done much damage in many parts of the country. On the 11th, there was such a flow of water into the Tyne that two vessels were sunk in the harbour, and numbers of others were damaged. Four men were drowned. At Carnarvon, a petty stream was so swollen that it washed down a high wall, and broke into the town; much damage was done in the lower parts of houses, and some persons were in danger of drowning. A mountain lake burst its boundaries near Penrhyn slate quarry; several houses were swept away, and one man was drowned. In other parts of Wales, and in the island of Anglesea, much damage has been done. At Bangor a large stream flowed through the streets on Sunday morning, the 12th, and people who had attended the service in the Cathedral had to be conveyed home in coaches. A gentleman has been drowned at night in Lake Windermere while returning home, in consequence of the road being under water, so that he missed his way and got into deep water. A man has been found dead in a pool under a railway-arch on the Botley-road, near Oxford. He seems to have fallen into the pond at night, probably somewhat in liquor. The Coroner's Jury recommended the railway company to have the water removed forthwith. Exeter has been flooded in several parts by the sudden swelling of the Exe. A great deal of damage was done, and some persons were in danger; but no life was lost. Perth has been flooded. The waters of the Tay rose to an extraordinary height, and viewed from an eminence the city was seen to be two-thirds surrounded by water. All low-lying parts of the city suffered much; while encases of sheep and oxen, with trees and brush-wood, borne along the impetuous stream, showed that the upper part of the country had not escaped ravage. From Ireland there are great complaints of the prevalence of floods in all parts of the country, putting a stop to agricultural operations, and diffusing a general gloom.

Many *Railway Accidents* have been reported this month. The following are among the most remarkable. On the 8th, an alarming collision between a passenger and a goods train, arising out of the negligence of a pointsman, occurred on the Midland line at Leeds. About a mile from the Wellington station there is a junction of the lines leading to that station on the left, and the Ilunslet station on the right. At half-past seven in the evening a goods train passed this junction, and was telegraphed by the pointsman to the other end of the line leading to the Wellington station. The pointsman then left the place for half an hour, and when the York and Leeds passenger train arrived at eight o'clock, without taking the trouble to ascertain whether

the goods train was signalled as having passed off the Water-lane junction, he directed the driver of the passenger train to proceed. From some cause unknown the goods train had been unable to ascend the incline so as to get out of danger, and the passenger train ran into it with great force. The driver of the passenger train was flung off the engine and sadly cut and bruised; and several of the passengers were seriously hurt. On the same day, a goods train consisting of engine, tender, and forty-five wagons, arrived in Sheffield without any one in charge of it. The engine by which the train was drawn was a new one of very large size. It had come from Manchester, and was on the way to Lincoln. When the train was a mile or two off Sheffield, one of the tubes of the boiler burst, and the engine-driver, after endeavouring to remedy the accident, in the course of which he sustained a severe scalding, was fain to retreat to the opposite end of the engine. He was still within the range of the hissing steam, and, after a desperate effort to endure till the scalding vapour should be exhausted, he dropped off the engine in a state of insensibility. The fireman and guard saved themselves by leaping off, and the train was thus left to proceed by itself. Though the steam had been turned off, the declivity of the line towards Sheffield, made the train move rapidly along, till it reached the goods station at Bridgehouses, when its speed being diminished, a boy in the service of the company took charge of it and brought it to the Sheffield station. Fortunately the line happened to be clear, otherwise great mischief would have been done. On the 13th, a *Fatal accident* happened on the Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway. A fortnight before, a young man named Hambury, entered the service of the company as signal-man, and for two days an experienced officer of the company remained with him to give him instructions in his duty, and he was then left to himself, with certain printed instructions as his guide. He continued in the performance of his duties until Monday, when he was signalling a down goods train, and this train having passed, he stepped upon the up line to cross it at the moment when an up train, which he had not seen or heard, came up, and killed him on the spot. At the inquest it was shown that in the book of instructions given to the deceased he was desired, when signalling a train, not to stand between the metals. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death." On the same day a *Fatal accident* took place during the progress of the three o'clock down train on the South-Western Railway. As the train was proceeding at its usual pace, between Basingstoke and Andover-road stations, when it had reached near Oakley-park bridge, a man was observed by the engine-driver and stoker walking downwards on the up line. The engine-driver instantly blew the whistle, and made every effort to shut off the steam; but it was too late. The engine and train passed over the body of the unfortunate man, which was cut to pieces. His name is Thompson, and he was in the employment of the Telegraph Company, and resided at Basingstoke.—A *double accident* occurred on the Railway near Harrow, on the night of the 22nd. When some little distance to the South of the station, the tire of the near leading wheel of the engine became detached, and left the rails. The speed at which the train was travelling had the effect of keeping the carriages on the line, and the engine ran along the ballast in a parallel line with and about six inches from the rails, for nearly a quarter of a mile. At this point the line suddenly curves, and there being no flange to keep the engine on the rails, it ran down the embankment, a distance of six or seven feet, and buried itself deeply in the earth. At the same instant, the coupling-chain between the tender and the guard's break snapped, and the carriages, taking an opposite direction from the engine, ran across the down line of rails. The guard's break caught the end of the tender as it left the line, and, after turning completely over, was literally crushed by the carriages which followed. Bartholomew, the guard, was frightfully mutilated, and killed on the spot. This disaster had scarcely taken place when the down goods train, leaving Camden at eleven p. m., arrived at the spot, and in the absence of any warning signal, ran directly into the debris; striking a composite carriage with such force as to cut it completely in half, throwing the engine and

several trucks off the rails, and creating a frightful scene of destruction and confusion. The driver of the express was thrown completely over the hedge into an adjoining field, where the wet soil protected him from serious injury. The fireman fell between the rails, and escaped most miraculously—several of the carriages having passed over him without inflicting any personal injury. The driver and stoker of the goods-train were much shaken, but not otherwise hurt.—Lastly, a very *Serious accident* took place on the 24th, to one of the up trains on the Bristol and Exeter Railway. Until very recently the communication between the Yatton station and Clevedon, was accomplished by means of coaches and omnibuses, but some time since the company laid down a branch-line to that place, worked by means of a small steam-engine. On the above morning, the man who has the charge of the switches having neglected to properly turn the points, the train was diverted from its proper course, and ran directly onwards, coming into violent collision with the engine-house, knocking away the ends of the walls and a portion of the roof, and then running away into a field adjacent. The train was very full, as it carried third-class passengers, and a great number of holiday-seekers were availing themselves of the convenience it afforded to visit their friends in Bristol, and the utmost consternation prevailed among them. Many of them received contusions, and one lady had her front teeth knocked out. The engine-driver, a very steady man, named Oxford, was literally buried beneath the debris of the fallen building, and upon his being got out it was discovered that he had received a severe injury of the leg, and other hurts, which rendered it advisable to remove him to his home. The engine was also disabled.

On Sunday morning, the 12th instant, T. Martin, aged twenty-four, H. Burton, aged seventeen, and W. Sheen aged twenty, assistants in the employ of Mr. Elliot, a chess-monger, of Portman-place, lost their lives from *Suffocation by Carbonic Acid*. They had retired to rest at an early hour on Sunday morning, in a room where a tripod charged with caustic charcoal was standing under an opening in the skylight, there being no chimney in the apartment. Their non-appearance on Sunday at breakfast time led to a search, when two of them were found dead in their beds, while the third, Burton, was unconscious, and died in the evening. A verdict has been returned of "Accidental death."

SOCIAL, SANITARY, AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS.

THE second Report of the Great Exhibition Commissioners respecting the disposal of the *Surplus* has been published. The Commissioners have purchased the Gore-house estate at Kensington, facing Hyde Park, containing 21½ acres, for which they have given 60,000l. They have also passed a resolution authorising the outlay of a sum not exceeding 150,000l. of the surplus in the purchase of land, on the condition that the government would engage to recommend to parliament the contribution of a sum of like amount towards carrying out the views of the commission as to the establishment of certain institutions of an educational and national character on the ground so purchased. Ministers having given this assurance, the commissioners purchased eight acres of land adjoining Gore-house estate for the sum of 153,500l. Of this amount 15,000l. has been paid already as a deposit.

A claim is made on behalf of the *University of London*, to be represented in parliament like Oxford and Cambridge. A meeting has been held with this view, at which a committee was appointed for preparing the necessary details, and subscriptions were entered into for defraying the requisite expenditure.

A meeting of ladies was held at Stafford House on the 26th ult., to consider the expediency of addressing *A Memorial from the Women of England to the Women of the United States on the subject of Slavery*. The Duchess of Sutherland explained the object of

the meeting, and read the following draught of the proposed memorial:—

"THE AFFECTIONATE AND CHRISTIAN ADDRESS OF MANY THOUSANDS OF THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND TO THEIR SISTERS, THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"A common origin, a common faith, and, we sincerely believe, a common cause, urge us, at the present moment, to address you on the subject of that system of negro slavery which still prevails so extensively, and even under kindly-disposed masters, with such frightful results, in many of the vast regions of the western world. We will not dwell on the ordinary topics—on the progress of civilisation, on the advance of freedom everywhere, on the rights and requirements of the nineteenth century—but we appeal to you very seriously to reflect, and to ask counsel of God how far such a state of things is in accordance with His holy word, the inalienable rights of immortal souls, and the pure and merciful spirit of the Christian religion. We do not shut our eyes to the difficulties, nay, the dangers, that might beset the immediate abolition of that long-established system; we see and admit the necessity of preparation for so great an event; but, in speaking of indissoluble preliminaries, we cannot be silent on those laws of your country, which, in direct contravention of God's own law, instituted in the time of man's innocence, deny in effect to the slave the sanctity of marriage, with all its joys, rights, and obligations; which separate, at the will of the master, the wife from the husband, and the children from the parents. Nor can we be silent on that awful system which, either by statute or by custom, interdicts to any race of man, or any portion of the human family, education in the truths of the Gospel and the ordinances of Christianity. A remedy applied to these two evils alone would commence the amelioration of their sad condition."

This memorial was agreed to, and a committee was formed for the purpose of collecting signatures and transmitting it to America. The ladies present were the Duchesses of Sutherland, Bedford, and Argyll; the Countess of Shaftesbury, Lady Constance Grosvenor, Viscountess Palmerston, Lady Dovor, Lady Cowley, Lady Ruthven, Lady Bellhaven, Hon. Mrs. Montague Villiers, Hon. Mrs. Kinnaird, the Lady Mayoress, Lady Trevelyan, Lady Parke, Miss Parke, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Buxton, Miss Buxton, Mrs. John Simon, Mrs. Procter, Mrs. Binney, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Steane, Mrs. John Buller, Mrs. R. D. Grainger, Mrs. Hawes, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Mary Howitt, Mrs. Dicey, Miss Trevelyan, Mrs. Milman, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Robson, and Mrs. Macaulay. The ladies whose names follow signified their concurrence:—The Duchess Dowager of Beaufort, the Marchioness of Stafford, the Countess of Derby, the Countess of Carlisle, Lady John Russell, the Countess of Litchfield, Viscountess Ebrington, the Countess of Cavan, Viscountess Melbourne, Lady Hatherton, Lady Blantyre, Lady Dufferin, Lady Easthope, Mrs. Josiah Condor, the Hon. Mrs. Cowper, Lady Clark, Lady Paxton, Lady Kaye Shuttleworth, Lady Buxton, Lady Inglis, Mrs. Malcolm, Mrs. Seeley, Mrs. Alfred Tennyson, Mrs. Lyon Playfair, Mrs. Charles Dickens, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Charles Knight, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Champneys, and Mrs. Rowland Hill. An office was appointed at 13, Clifford Street, Bond Street.

The annual meeting of the association for promoting the *Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge* was held at Exeter Hall on the 1st inst., and was attended by a crowded assemblage. Mr. Douglas Jerrold occupied the chair, and on the platform were Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. Gibson, M.P., Mr. C. Knight, Mr. G. Cruikshank, Mr. Wilderspin, Mr. Novello, Mr. D. Seymour, M.P., the Rev. G. Smith, Dr. Watts, and others. Speeches were delivered by the Chairman, Dr. Watts, Mr. Knight, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Bucknall, and Mr. Seymour; and resolutions to the following effect were unanimously agreed to:—

"That the duties on paper and advertisements, and the penny stamp on newspapers, tend to injure literature, to obstruct education, and to hinder the progress of the people in intelligence and morality.

"That, as the newspaper stamp produces only a trifling sum to the revenue, and as the advertisement-duty causes a positive loss to the Exchequer, their retention can be attributed only to a desire to restrain the liberty of the press.

"That, the Government having given notice to introduce a bill for the amendment of the law relating to stamps on newspapers, this meeting do appoint its Chairman, together with the President and Committee of the Association, and the undersigned gentlemen, to form a deputation to wait upon the Prime

Minister, in order to bring under the notice of the Government the pernicious effects of the newspaper stamp, and press the repeal rather than the amendment of the Newspaper Stamp Act."

An addition to the first resolution proposed by Mr. Rodgers, was agreed to, calling for a repeal of the act which requires that securities should be given before publication, to answer for libels. A deputation was appointed to wait on the prime minister in order to press the repeal of the Newspaper Stamp Act. Lord Derby received the deputation on the 8th; introduced by Mr. Milner Gibson, with Mr. Hume as spokesman. In reply to the statements addressed to him, Lord Derby particularised the advertisement duty as very objectionable: but ministers had been precluded from dealing with it from "financial considerations."

The *Leeds Mechanics' Institute* had its annual *soirée* on the 8th. Lord John Russell presided, and the Music-hall was crowded to excess, that building being insufficient to accommodate all the members. Mr. Kitson, the president of the institute, read a report which showed its favourable progress, and proposed to provide increased accommodation by erecting a new building at the expense of \$8000. Lord John Russell addressed the assembly in a most eloquent and interesting speech, tending to lead working men to literary study as a means of self-culture. Speeches in a similar spirit, were delivered by Mr. H. Cole, Professor Phillips, the Dean of Ripon, and Lord Beaumont.

There is not a *single able-bodied pauper*, male or female, in Marylebone workhouse: and while during the corresponding period of last year there were 150 men in the stoneyard, there are now only forty.

Government has granted the charter to the Crystal Palace Company, but *without authority to open the Palace on Sundays*. The prohibition rests on the legal construction of a statute of George the Third, enacted with a very different object. The proposed opening will therefore require the express sanction of Parliament.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

THE Queen and Royal Family arrived at Osborne, from Windsor, on the 29th ult., and remained there till the 22nd inst., when they returned to Windsor.

The new chaplain for Pitcairn's Island, the Reverend G. H. Nobbs, sailed on the 17th, in La Plata. Before he sailed, he had an interview with Prince Albert at Osborne, and was afterwards presented to the Queen.

The projected marriage between the Emperor Napoleon and the Princess Wasa is broken off, and it is now confidently reported that the Princess will marry Prince Albert of Saxony.

A negotiation has been entered into for the marriage of the Emperor with the Princess Stephanie, the second child of the Prince of Hohenzollern. She is in her sixteenth year.

The personal property of the *late Earl of Shrewsbury* has been sworn under 100,000*l*. The deceased has left some trifling legacies; but the residue of his personal property, and the proceeds of all his estates, at Alton, Farley, and elsewhere, which the will directs to be sold, are bequeathed to Mr. Ambrose Lisle Phillips, of Grace Dieu Manor, Leicestershire, and Mr. C. Scott Murray, of Danesfield, Buckinghamshire, both of whom succeeded from the Church of England some years since and joined the communion of the Church of Rome. The property had been previously left to Dr. Walsh, and, in the event of his decease, to Cardinal Wiseman; but this was revoked by a codicil in favour of Messrs. Phillips and Murray, who are to divide the property equally between them.

The executors of the will of the *late Mrs. Mary Halford*, of Newcourt, near Exeter, have just paid the following munificent charity legacies left by her will. The Deaf and Dumb Institution, 1000*l*.; the Blind Institution, 1000*l*.; the Exeter Dispensary, 1000*l*.; the Exeter Eye Infirmary, 1000*l*.; and the Governesses Benevolent Institution, London, 1000*l*.; all free of legacy duty.

The veteran comedian, Mr. Bartley, took leave of the stage at the Princess's Theatre on Saturday the 18th.

inst., the fiftieth anniversary of his first appearance before the London public.

Mr. Thackeray delivered his first lecture at New York on the 19th of November, to a crowded audience.

Dr. Joel Parker, of New York, has commenced an action against the authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," for defamation; damages laid at 20,000 dollars. It is stated that Dr. Joel Parker, on hearing the mention Mrs. Stowe had made of his name as the author of an atrocious sentiment, wrote to her, offering proof that she had been misinformed, and that he was not the author of that sentiment. Mrs. Stowe made no reply until a third letter elicited from her the assertion that she had documentary evidence of the truth of her statement. Hereupon Dr. Parker commenced his action.

Obituary of Notable Persons.

MISS BERRY, the last surviving friend of Horace Walpole, died at her house in Curzon-street, on the 20th ult., in her ninetieth year. She sank gradually, without suffering, and without disease, into what appeared but a placid sleep. She was sensible to the last, and had retained all her faculties unimpaired.

ADA, COUNTESS OF LOVELACE, died on the 27th ult., in her 37th year, after an illness of above a year's duration. She was the only daughter of Lord Byron. In 1835, she was married to

Lord King, now Earl of Lovelace, a union whereby the lineage of Locke was blended with that of Byron. Lady Lovelace was distinguished for strength of intellect, as well as for elegant accomplishments and amiable qualities.

REAR ADMIRAL OF THE RED, CHARLES JOHN AUSTEN, C.B., the commander-in-chief of the East India station, died on the 8th of October, in his 74th year, in the expedition to Tromsø.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL WENYSS died on the 30th ult., at Cumberland Lodge, in Windsor Great Park, where he had resided for the last eleven years, as Clerk-Marshal to Prince Albert. He was in the 63rd year of his age.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM EMISON of Haylebury College, died there on the 10th inst. He was the son-in-law of Francis Jeffrey, and editor of the "Edinburgh Review."

ADMIRAL SIR THOMAS BERGGS, G.C.M.G., the commander-in-chief at Portsmouth, died on Thursday morning, in his 72nd year.

MR. BALLANTINE, who was for twenty-seven years one of the magistrates of the Thames Police-court, died at his residence in Cadogan-place, Chelsea, on the 15th inst., in his 74th year.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE died suddenly at his seat, Compton Verney, in Warwickshire, on the 16th inst., in his 80th year.

MR. PETER BORTHWICK, formerly Member for Evesham, died on the 18th inst., after a long and painful illness.

COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

THE accounts by the last *India Mail* report no progress in the Burmese war. It was said that General Godwin had been recalled, but the rumour required confirmation. The health of the troops was excellent. The north-west frontier was in disorder, and a force had been despatched to the disturbed districts.

The intelligence from the *Cape of Good Hope*, is to the 6th of November. The news of the Caffre war is of the usual complexion; that the war had not ended, but that by repeated and vigorous attacks the Caffres and rebel Hottentots had been driven to the greatest straits and much dispersed. The lager of Uithaalder had been burnt, and the rebels driven off. Macomo and Sandilli and their forces had been forced to shelter themselves in forests skirting the Amatolas. Lieutenant Whitmore, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, had nearly captured Sandilli. With a small force he attacked a body of Caffres who fled at his onset: the bulk of the party went one way, while a horseman dashed off in another; Lieutenant Whitmore rode after the latter at full speed, firing as he dashed along—it was Sandilli. The pursuer's horses were exhausted, and the chief entered the bush. Capt. Hearn's men had been cut off and killed while conveying cattle.

General Cathcart had had an interview with the T'Slambiechiefs at Fort Murray; shortly afterwards Scolo surrendered. Little is known of the military position of the troops at the seat of war, as General Cathcart is chary of publishing his general orders.

At Cape Town there was great discontent with the conduct of the home government in regard to the constitution. On the 4th November, a despatch from Sir John Pakington, postponing the ratification of the promised constitution, was read in the Cape Town Legislative Assembly. Next day the Commissioners for the Cape Town Municipality held a special meeting, and passed a set of resolutions expressing "indignation and surprise" at the "indefinite postponement" of the constitution contemplated by the government. That course they consider "extremely injudicious," "and pregnant with most serious consequences;" calculated to create general discontent, excitement, and alarm. They also denounce any further attempt on the part of the nominee Legislative Council to interfere with the rights, liberties, and privileges of the Colonial Parliament, granted by the letters patent of 1850; they pro-

test against the same, and hold the ministers responsible for consequences.

Advices have been received from *Melbourne*, to the 7th of September. The reports of the new discoveries of gold in South Australia and New South Wales are confirmed. There is now a gold-field within eighteen miles of Adelaide; another at Bingara; another at Daisy Hill. It is now proved by actual events, that a vast belt of highly-auriferous land extends across the Australian continent, from the Victoria gold-fields to those at Bathurst and its neighbourhood, and thence to the banks of the Hunter and the back of Morton Bay. At the same time, the old diggings are almost as productive as ever, and deserted holes have yielded largely to new comers. It is calculated that no less than 2,532,422 ounces have been yielded by the Victoria gold-fields, from October, 1851, to August, 1852. The worth of the exports was estimated at \$863,477.

In the first week in September, 4283 emigrants had arrived in Victoria; but the demand for labour was greater than the supply, and wages did not decline. The state of society is said to be deplorable; robbery and murder being quite common, and the government unable to check it.

The last *West India* mail brings melancholy accounts of the prevalence of yellow fever, particularly at Barbadoes and St. Thomas's, among the shipping. Her Majesty's ship Dauntless had lost the first and third lieutenants, two mates, the second master, the chief and three other engineers, and twenty-five men. The master, chaplain, marine officer, two midshipmen, the only remaining engineer, and thirty-eight men, were in the hospital. Some of the Royal Mail Company's inter-colonial steam-ship had also had yellow fever on board to a considerable extent, and among the deaths reported are those of Mr. Vincent, second officer of the *Esk* (the midshipman who distinguished himself in connection with the loss of the *Amazon*). Mr. Vincent died at the Bahamas on the 9th of November. The deaths from fever at Barbadoes amongst the Europeans and natives have been most alarming. Commissary-General Neil and his family have been swept away by it. The Jamaica House of Assembly was still in session; but it was expected that the most important business would be delayed till it became known what measures of relief for the colony would be passed by the Imperial Parliament.

NARRATIVE OF FOREIGN EVENTS.

THE Proclamation of the *French Empire* took place on the 2nd. inst. On the previous day the Corps Legislatif announced the definitive result of the "Plebiscité" to be as follows:—

Ayes	7,864,189
Noes	253,145
Null	63,326

The Empire was proclaimed throughout France on Sunday the 5th. In all the churches of the diocese of Paris, the "Domine salvum fac Imperatorem nostrum Napoleonem" was chanted, according to the form prescribed by the Papal See in 1804. The new Emperor attended mass in the chapel of the Tuilleries. The Senate met on the 6th to receive two projects of a *Senatus-consultum*; one modifying the constitution, the other relating to the civil list. The new constitution consists of sixteen short articles. The Emperor has taken to himself all but absolute power. He grants pardons and amnesties. He authorises all public works by decree. All control over the finances is taken away from the legislative corps. Senators will receive an annual salary of 30,000 francs; the deputies of the legislative corps "receive an indemnity" of 6000 francs a year. The Emperor may nominate senators to the number of one hundred and fifty. The members of the imperial family called ultimately to the succession, and their descendants, are made French Princes. They will be senators and councillors of state. The oath of allegiance is—"I swear obedience to the Constitution and fidelity to the Emperor." The second *Senatus-consultum* leaves the fixing of the civil list to the senate. The crown claims all the old royal domains as an "immoveable dotation;" the moveable dotation consists of the jewels, pictures, libraries, museums, works of art, and furniture at the imperial palaces: they are inalienable. Debts or pensions granted by the Emperor cannot be charged on the imperial domain. The "private property" of the Emperor is united to the State. The jointure of the Empress will be fixed at the Emperor's marriage. An annual dotation of 1,500,000 francs is reserved for the Emperor to distribute at his pleasure among the princes and princesses. The senate has voted the *Senatus-consultum* fixing the civil list; but the new Constitution is still under discussion, and it appears that in some points, opposition is ventured upon.

Jerome Bonaparte, the ex-King of Wurtemberg, is now heir presumptive to the imperial throne. The *Moniteur* contains a decree of the Emperor, dated the 18th inst., to the following effect:—

"In case of our leaving no direct heir, legitimate or adopted, our well-beloved uncle, Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, and his descendants, direct and legitimate, the issue of his marriage with the Princess Catherine of Wurtemberg, from male to male, by order of primogeniture, to the perpetual exclusion of the females, are appointed to succeed us."

There has been a fresh persecution at Florence similar to that of the *Madiai*. Some time ago, Guarducci, a banker's clerk, was arrested, with Count Guicciardini and others, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment for reading the Bible. Mr. Sheil then our minister at Florence, interfered, and the sentence was commuted into banishment for that period. Guarducci went to Piedmont; and the year having elapsed, he returned to his family, and resumed his old employment in the same banking-house at Florence. On the 21st November, the Police entered his house at three in the morning, and found there a copy of Diodati's Bible. Guarducci was arrested instantly; and alarm is felt for his fate, as capital punishment for religious offences is now the law of Tuscany.

There has been a ministerial crisis at *Madrid*, arising apparently from court intrigues of no interest out of Spain. An unsuccessful combination against the ministers of Bravo Murillo led in the first instance to the exile of General Narvaez, who was sent on a pretended mission to Vienna. But Bravo Murillo

and his Cabinet have since been forced to resign, and a new ministry is not yet formed.

The law against the freedom of the press in *Belgium* has been passed by the Chamber of Representatives after a strenuous opposition. The chamber has voted a grant to ministers of 6,000,000 francs for the military defence of the country.

The Emperor of *Austria* has paid a visit to the King of *Prussia* at Berlin, for the first time in the history of the two nations. He has been received with great splendour and festivity.

Five persons, condemned to death on political charges, have been executed at *Mantua* with atrocious cruelty. They were all respectable in station. Their judges were Benedek, well known in the Gallician massacres, Bolga, a nephew of him who was spared by the Milanese in 1848, and Rossi, both accuser and judge. Even the officer who signed the sentence of death had been spared by the Venetians in 1848. They were tried before a secret tribunal; and were tortured during the trial, with the stick, in the vain hope that they would confess. They were hanged in a new and peculiar manner, partly supported by the waist and feet,—a mode inflicting great and protracted punishment; so that the fifth man was an hour and a quarter witnessing the death-struggles of his friends.

The accounts from *New York* are to the 12th instant. Both houses of Congress met on the 6th, when the President's valedictory message was read—a paper of great length, entering minutely into all the foreign and domestic relations of the United States. The excitement at Havana in relation to the Crescent City has entirely subsided. The Governor (Captain-General) having been quite satisfied with Purser Smith's affidavit and explanation, had agreed to admit him in future, and the Crescent City, to the port of Havana without molestation. There is much anxiety and alarm felt in New York on account of the increase of crime. Four young men had been sentenced to death for wilful murder, and two others were awaiting sentence for the same crime. A telegraphic despatch from New Orleans announced the arrival at that port of advices from Mexico, which are very important, as they announce the progress of a formidable revolution in Tamaulipas. The city of Victoria, which is the capital of that state, had been captured by the insurgents, who were advancing on Tampico. There had been a battle in the state of Sonora, in which the government troops under Blanco had been defeated. The state of Aguas Calientes has pronounced in favour of the revolt of Guadalajara. At Mazatlan two vessels of war have joined the insurgents, and at Orizaba the garrison and town were expected to surrender.

A remarkable case, respecting the *liberties of slaves in passing through a free State*, has been decided at New York. It appears that a Mr. Lemmon, transporting eight slaves from Virginia to Texas, touched at New York to take ship thence to New Orleans, in October. When he arrived in New York Bay, he went ashore to make arrangements for the transhipment of his slaves and other property; but by some means he was induced to land them, and then he received notice that they would be claimed. The case was heard before Judge Payne, on a writ of habeas corpus obtained by Lemmon. Judgment was delivered on the 13th of November. The slaves, through a coloured man named Louis Napoleon, claimed their liberty, on the ground that the act of landing them in New York set them free. Mr. Lemmon claimed the slaves, on the ground that they were still the property of his wife; that he had not intended them to reside in New York, but was passing from Virginia to Texas, and had been compelled to touch land. Judge Payne cited the act under which the case came. Down to 1841, the law was, that a slave passing through or travelling from New York State remained a slave, providing his stay in the State was less than nine months. But that law had been

changed, by the "Revised Statutes," which, repealing certain sections of the law, that would have saved the slaves to their owner, left the first section operative, and made slaves "imported, introduced, or brought" into the State of New York, absolutely free. He adjudged that the eight coloured persons mentioned in the writ of habeas corpus obtained by Lemmon be discharged. In accordance with this judgment, the slaves were delivered up to Louis Napoleon, placed in coaches, and driven off, amid the cheers of other coloured people.

Advices from *California* state that the city of Sacra-

mento has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. Nearly every house was burned, and many lives were lost. Destructive fires have also occurred in San Francisco and Marysville. The fire in Sacramento city laid waste an extensive area of the city, leaving nine-tenths of the population houseless. The loss is estimated at 10,000,000 dollars. The *Democratic State Journal* office was destroyed; also the State Hospital, the patients in which suffered dreadfully. During the nine days which elapsed since the occurrence of the fire and the departure of the steamer, 350 buildings had been restored.

NARRATIVE OF LITERATURE AND ART.

THE pent-up stream of publication, confined so long by the various accidents of the year, has come down in a flood at last, and the Christmas counters of the booksellers are fairly inundated with new books and new editions. Of course our summary deals with the former only.

The Hon. Capt. Devereux has written, in two octavo volumes containing many original letters set in a well-arranged narrative, the lives of his most famous ancestors, *The Earls of Essex*, in the century between Elizabeth and the Commonwealth. Sir Archibald Alison has published his first instalment of what promises to be a mournful *History of Europe, from the fall of Napoleon I. to the rise of Napoleon III.* A third volume of illustrative essays and correspondence has been added to the *Life and Letters of Niebuhr*, to which the Chevalier Bunsen prefixes a valuable disquisition on the character of his teacher and friend. Captain E. Buckle has written a *Memoir of the Services of the Bengal Artillery*, which is well edited by Mr. J. W. Kaye. Lord Belfast has favoured us with his opinion of the *Poets and Poetry of the XIX. Century*, in which the poetical extracts are interesting and the critical views not too recondite. Mrs. Charles Meredith, a lady who as Miss Louisa Twamley wrote pleasantly on nature and flowers, has now written her nine years' experience of a *Home in Tasmania*, in which, the book being full of every day domestic incidents and details, a very large reading public is likely to find themselves more than commonly interested. Lieutenant-Colonel Burn has compiled, with great labour and care, a *Naval and Military Technical Dictionary of the French Language*. Mr. James Fergusson has published a very pithy treatise on *French Fleets and English Ports*, or what he calls "the perils of Portsmouth;" and Capt. Elliott, apropos of the same vitally important theme, has drawn up a very striking and apparently feasible *Plan for the formation of a Maritime Militia*. Mr. Hallam has selected and presented from his book on the Literature of Europe, a series of *Literary Essays and Characters*. M. A. de la Rive has issued a *Treatise on Electricity*; and Mr. J. A. Langford a volume on *Religion and Education*. Mrs. Jameson has added to her former very beautiful volume on Scriptural Art another not less beautiful on *Legends of the Madonna*. Mr. William Grattan has described, in two foolscap volumes, the *Adventures of the Connaught Rangers*; and another Irishman has set forth, in three, his *Reminiscences of an Emigrant Militiaman with Souvenirs of the Brigade*.

Lord John Russell has given us the first instalment of the *Memoirs, Journal, and Correspondence of Thomas Moore*, in which a diary is begun which promises before it ends to rival, in minuteness and honesty, even the immortal confidences of Pepps. Captain Keppel has made public another *Visit to the Indian Archipelago*, with fresh extracts from that "diary of Sir James Brooke," which, whatever of the romantic may once have seemed to belong to it, has been sadly stripped of its romance during the last four years. Mr. John Mac Gregor has discoursed on the *Results of Recent Commercial and Financial Legislation*; Sir Edward Colebrook on the *Indian Civil Service*; and an anonymous writer, of very marked ability, on the *Morality of Public Men*. The writer of the denunciatory *Letters of an Englishman* has collected them into a book by way

of a Christmas present to the new French Emperor; and Mr. Andrew Scoble has translated, for one of Mr. Bohn's Libraries, M. Guizot's not less timely *History of Representative Government*. Dr. Dunmore Lang has republished his *History of New South Wales*, with additions bringing it down to the summer of the present year; and has added to it a volume of remonstrance on the alleged grievances of the colony, claiming *Freedom and Independence for the Golden Lands of Australia*. Mr. P. J. Stirling has also treated, at the length of an entire volume, on *The Australian and Californian Gold Discoveries*; and Mr. C. Barter has described *Six months in Natal*. A volume has come over to us from New York, very pleasantly depicting the *Homes of American Authors*; and an American Doctor of Divinity has compiled for his countrymen, and for us, a large goodly volume of *Select British Eloquence*, comprising speeches of the best English orators from the Commonwealth to our own day, beginning with Eliot and ending with Brougham.

Among the books issued with a view more particularly to the season, story books appear to hold the first place. The names of the principal ones may be given. *Agatha's Husband* is a tale in three volumes, very earnestly told by the same writer who gives her younger readers in one small volume, *Philip's Book*, her idea of *A hero*. *Tulpa, or the Chronicle of a Clay Farm*, is a Christmas volume for farmers which puts something of the graces of fiction into even sub-soil drainage, and which contains some designs by George Cruikshank, of first-rate humour and fancy. Mr. Charles Reade has told in one freshly-written volume that story of *Peg Woffington*, which has moved so many tears and smiles at the Haymarket Theatre; and the original of which is no doubt this narrative, for it is too full of spirit and movement to be regarded as the after-thought or copy. *Katie Stewart* is a pretty little tale out of Blackwood's Magazine. The *Little Dreamer* is a tale from the German, very nicely illustrated; so is a *Leaf of a Christmas Tale*. *Arbell, the Adventures of a Bear*, and a *Day of Pleasure*, are stories all devised for the young, and all very prettily ornamented by clever artists. *Retail Mammon, or the Parabolicker's Daughter*, is addressed with a somewhat graver moral to taller readers. The *Experience of Life* is one of those pleasingly written tales of religious feeling which would be the better for removal of their touches of Tractarianism. To these various story-books, may be added some gift-books of a general kind, which owe much of their attraction to their features of ornament, but in which the literature is of a higher average than used to prevail in books of a similar character ten or twenty years ago. The *Poetry of the Year*, and the *Poets of the Woods*, contain many beautiful designs printed in colours, and extracts not less beautiful or bright from the most famous English poets. Mr. Bartlett gives us a series of *Pictures from Sicily*, well executed, both with pencil and pen. And finally, Mr. Sandys describes, in a seasonably illustrated volume, *Christmastide: its History, Festivities, and Customs*.

Of the shoals of new editions newly furbished up for the time, it is impossible to speak; nor indeed is this list we have offered of the strictly new books by any means complete. But it will sufficiently show how busy the publishers have been, and in what various ways.

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

BANKRUPTS.

From the London Gazette of Nov. 30th.—H. VENNALL, Hastings, stone-mason.—M. CASEY, Baker-street, outfitter.—W. ROBINSON, Maidstone, linen-draper.—W. COOKE, Albert-terrace, Bow, miller.—J. WARREN, George-street, Hanover-square, dentist.—T. P. WILLS, Portsea, brewer.—G. LESTER, High-street, Poplar, builder.—R. JONES, Coventry, hatter.—H. HASTINGS, Cheltenham, tea-dealer.

Dec. 4th.—R. COLLS, Charlton, builder.—E. NOBLE, Down-street, plumber.—T. CORBY, Lower Eaton-street, builder.—J. E. SPICER, Chilworth, Surrey, paper-manufacturer.—H. CAPPER, Gravesend, victualler.—P. COWAN, Skinner-street, Snow-hill, brass-founder.—C. J. PICKFORD, Cheltenham, upholsterer.—T. WHEELER, jun., Winstone, Cirencester, cattle-dealer.—R. JONES, Oswestry, Shropshire, hatter.—D. COE, Manchester, grocer.

Dec. 7th.—J. R. OATES, Finch-lane, Cornhill, tailor.—W. H. SURIDGE, known as W. SURIDGE, Harrow-road, horse-dealer.—R. GREAR, Bradley-terrace, Wandsworth-road, wax-chandler.—D. SUTHERLAND, Preston, seed-merchant.—W. BACON, Brentwood, grocer.—R. BELL and G. CAMPBELL, Liverpool, merchants.

Dec. 10th.—H. STAGG, Croydon, grocer.—C. RHODES, Terrace, Kensington, milliner.—W. J. BOWDEN, Ware, apothecary.—W. THORNTON, Battersea, carpenter.—T. BARNSHAW, Brunswick-street, Poplar, retailer of beer.—J. GILL, Calvert's-buildings, Southwark, hop-factor.—A. BAIN, Old Bond-street, electric-clock-maker.—J. GOULDIN, Outwell, Norfolk, potato-dealer.—E. DISTRUCCI, Salisbury-street, Strand, lithographic artist.—R. H. MURRAY, Alfred-place, Camden-road, baker.—E. and E. F. ENGLISH, Bath, auctioneers.—D. WILLIAMS, Dowlais, Glamorganshire, grocer.—J. CHIDLAND, Sidmouth, grocer.—T. SPEED, sen., Liverpool, butcher.—J. KERON, Altrincham, Cheshire, builder.—J. NESS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer.

Dec. 14th.—W. ROBINSON, Grand Junction-terrace, Edgware-road, upholsterer.—J. SPRAATT, Sloane-street, coach-builder.—A. BUNNETT, Bridge House-place, Newington-causeway, window-blind-manufacturer.—J. ASKEY, Shelton, Staffordshire, timber-merchant.—W. WALTON, Leamington Priors, baker.—S. DUDGEON, Litchurch, Derbyshire, builder.—G. HIRST, Kirkborton, Yorkshire, manufacturer.

Dec. 17th.—J. K. VOTE, Albion-square, Dalston, builder.—R. S. BOUTLER, Mount-row, Westminster-terrace, tailor.—C. JACOB, Ingram Court, Fenchurch-street, merchant.—W. WELLINGTON, Paddington, builder.—S. SALTER, Abbot's Langley, maltster.—W. SHOBERL, Great Marlborough-street, publisher.—B. JAMES, Newport, Monmouthshire, builder.—J. ATKINSON, Hull, seed-crisher.—C. TULLY, Sunderland, shipowner.—C. B. REID, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, brewer.—S. C. HARRISON, Sunderland-by-the-sea, linen-draper.

Dec. 21st.—J. ARTIGUES, Mark-lane, general-merchant.—F. W. THOMAS, Leadenhall-street, auctioneer.—T. MANLEY, Exeter, dealer in wool.—W. BATE, Camelford, Cornwall, butcher.—F. PEARSON, Liverpool, painter.

Dec. 24th.—W. J. KERBRIDGE, Deptford, cheesemonger.

Dec. 28th.—W. H. PERCIVAL, Bloomsbury-square, publisher.—G. COLLIER, Hatton-garden, bookbinder.—W. McGEORGE, St. John-street-road, draper.—J. TALL and J. MINGAY, Crawford-street, Bryantstone-square, mechanical tool manufacturers.—W. TANNER, Alcester, Warwickshire, draper.—A. SKELTON, Mount Tabor, Halifax, stone deliver.

MONEY MARKET.

The Stock Market has been steady during the month, the variations having been trifling. The closing price of Consols on the 27th was 100½ to 100½. The prices of Foreign Stocks have shown little fluctuation; and in Railway Shares business has been somewhat languid, and operations not extensive.

STOCKS.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
Three per Cent. Consols . . .	101½	100½	100½
Three per Cent. Reduced . . .	10 7/8	100½	101½
Three and a quarter per Cents. .	104½	103½	104½
Long Annuities, Jan. 1860 . . .	6½	6½	6 1/16
Bank Stock . . .	224	222	224½
Exchequer Bills . . .	72	60	69
India Bonds . . .	83 pm.	75	83

FOREIGN FUNDS—LATEST PRICES.

Brazilian 5 per cent., 102½	Peruvian 3 per cent., 23½
Chilian 6 per cent., 108	Portuguese 4 per cent., 40½
Danish 3 per cent., 86½	Russian 5 per cent., 120
Dutch 4 p. cent. certificates, 99½	Spanish 3 per cent. new deft. 24½
Mexican 3 per cent., 23½	Sardinian, 5 per cent., 96.

Paid.	RAILWAYS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Latest.
St. 100	Brighton and South Coast.	110	107½	108½
all	Blackwall . . .	9½	9	9½
St. 100	Caledonian . . .	69	67½	67½
all	Eastern Counties . . .	16	13½	13½
St. 100	Edinburgh and Glasgow . . .	80½	77½	80
" 100	Great Northern . . .	84½	82	82
" 100	Great Western . . .	97	94½	95½
" 100	LANCASHIRE and YORKSHIRE	87	84½	85
" 100	London & North-Western	128	124½	125½
" 100	Midland . . .	81½	79½	79½
" 100	North British . . .	42	39	39½
" 100	South-Eastern and Dover.	83½	80	83½
" 100	York, Newc., and Berwick	76	73	73
" 100	York and North Midland.	62	59	59½

FOREIGN RAILWAYS—LATEST PRICES.

Boulogne and Amiens, 11½	Paris and Rouen, 38½
East Indian, 9½, p. m.	Paris and Strasbourg, 32½
Namur and Liege, 8½ (with int.)	Rouen and Havre, 21½
Northern of France, 35½	Tours and Nantes, 13½

CORN MARKET—LONDON WEEKLY AVERAGES.

Wheat, per qr., 43s. 10d.; Barley, 29s. 9d.; Oats, 18s. 5d.; Rye, 23s. 2d.; Beans, 34s. 6d.; Peas, 32s.; Flour, (town made), delivered, 46s. to 49s.; American, per barrel, 23s. to 29s.

PROVISIONS—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Bacon, per cwt., Irish, 50s. to 51s.; middles, 51s. to 53s.	Hams, per cwt.—York or Cumberland, 94s. to 100s.; Irish, 50s. to 74s.; Westphalia, 44s. to 50s.
Beef, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d.	Mutton, per 8 lb., mid. to prime, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d.
Butter.—Best fresh, 15s. per doz.; Carlow, 8s. to 90s. per cwt.; Dutch Friesland, 82s. to 86s.; Limerick, 72s. to 76s.	Potatoes, per ton.—Kent and Essex Shaws, 60s. to 72s.; Kent and Essex middling, 55s. to 70s; Chats, 22s. to 24s.
Cheese, per cwt.—Cheshire, 44s. to 66s.; Derby, plain, 48s. to 58s.; Dutch, new Gouda, 28s. to 36s.; American, 32s. to 44s.; Eggs, per 120, French, 7s. to 10s.	Pork, 3s. to 4s.
	Veal, per 8 lb., 2s. 6d. to 4s.

GROCERY—LATEST WHOLESALE PRICES.

Cocoa, per cwt. Ord. to good, red Trinidad, 31s. to 44s.; Brazil, 24s. 6d. to 28s.	Sugar, per cwt.—Muscovado, 25s. 1d.; Jamaica, 30s. 6d. to 38s. 6d.; Mauritius, brown, 26s. to 32s.; Brazil, 31s. 6d. to 40s.
Coffee, per cwt.—Good ord., native Ceylon, 46s. to 95s.; Mocha, 64s. to 95s.; Sumatra, 34s. to 37s.; Rio, 51s. to 52s. 6d.	Tea, per lb. (duty 2s. 1d. and 5 per cent.)—Ord. to good fine Congou, 1s. 4½d. to 2s.; Sonchong, comm. to fine, 9d. to 1s. 9d.; Pekoe, 1s. 3d. to 4s.; Imperial, 1s. 2d. to 2s.
Rice, per cwt.—Bengal fine white, 10s. 3d. to 12s. 0d.; Madras, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.; Patna, cleaned, 16s. to 17s.	

Candles, per 12 lb., 5s. 4d.	Coals, per ton.—Hetton, 17s. 6d.; Tees, 17s. 6d.
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OILS.

Pale Seal, per 252 gals., 34½ 10s. 6d. 33d.	Olive, Gallipoli per ton, 55½.
Palm, per cwt., 29s. to 30s.	Linsseed, per cwt., 11. 9s. 6d.
	Rape, 11. 15s.

